UNIFORMS OF THE SS

VOLUME 3

SS-VERFÜGUNGSTRUPPE 1933-1939

UNIFORMS OF THE SS

VOLUME 3

SS-VERFÜGUNGSTRUPPE 1933-1939

Andrew Mollo

Windrow & Greene

Publisher's note

For technical reasons it has not proved possible to reproduce certain illustrations in this edition in their original colours. All items illustrated in the plates may be assumed to be in black and white or silver (aluminium) unless otherwise described in the text and revised captions.

Third edition

© 1991 Historical Research Unit

Designed and illustrated by Malcolm McGregor

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopy, recording, or in any information storage and retrieval system, without the prior written consent of the publishers.

Published in Great Britain 1991 by
Windrow & Greene Ltd.
5 Gerrard Street
London W1V 7LJ

Printed in Great Britain by
BAS Printers Ltd., Over Wallop, Hants.

A CIP catalogue record for this book
is available from the British Library

ISBN 1-872004-51-2

INTRODUCTION

The first two volumes in this series ("Allgemeine-SS" by Andrew Mollo and "Germanische-SS" by Hugh Page Taylor) have dealt with the political aspect of the SS. This, and the remaining volumes in this series, will deal with its military side .

Before summing up the origins and history of the armed SS it would be well to define terms and explain the confines of this particular volume. The "SS-Verfügungstruppe" ("SS Special Purpose Troops"), which will be referred to by name or simply "SS-VT", was a transitional name given to the militarised formations of the SS. It came into use during the early 1930s and was used to describe local SS units being formed along military lines. It continued to be used to describe this increasing armed force until early in the Second World War, when it was replaced by "Waffen-SS" (literally "Armed SS").

This book is intended to cover the SS-VT and nothing else, although to keep to this hard and fast rule has proved impossible. It has been decided, therefore, to trace the origins of the SS-VT units back to their establishment, even when the term was not then in use. On the other hand, it has been found advisable to conclude this study at the beginning of the Second World War, although this does not coincide with the discontinuance of the term. Actually it was not until after the fall of France, in July 1940, that the expression "Waffen-SS" came into regular use, and only on April 22nd, 1941, did the SS Operations Department forbid the use of the term "SS-Verfügungstruppe".

BACKGROUND TO THE HISTORY OF THE SS-VT

In volume one of this series readers saw how an élite party organisation was created from within the ranks of Hitler's Nazi Party, and moulded by Himmler into a totally obedient body of men which swore unbreakable loyalty to the Führer. The SS, above all others, was to carry out the first commandment of the Third Reich : "The Führer is always right"[1].

From its creation the SS was a far more reliable and trustworthy organisation than the original Party force, the SA. It was also much smaller, as only one SS man was recruited for every ten in the SA, and thus greater care could be taken in the selection of recruits. Yet still it was an organisation of part-timers, and although its stringent entry requirements guaranteed high racial and physical standards, its men only served a few hours per week and, other than veterans from the First World War, had little real military experience. Hitler looked to this source of "pure" Aryan stock as an ideal basis for a totally loyal and subservient military force.

Hitler favoured the SS more than the SA and consequently boosted its morale with the bestowal of Party honours. Possibly the most important of these was the bestowal of the "Blood Flag", which had been carried in the Munich Putsch of November 9th, 1923, and which had been stained with the blood of the fallen Nazis. Hitler entrusted this flag to the SS during the second Party Day Rally at Weimar on the 3rd/4th of July, 1926. Later, on April 1st, 1931, he presented it with its own motto—"My Honour is Loyalty" ("Meine Ehre Heisst Treue")—which was later added to the belt buckles and blades of SS daggers. It can be seen, therefore, that the SS was set apart from, and above, the SA even from an early date, although at the time it was still part of the SA.

The only full-time, armed and barracked unit of the SS was the Munich Staff Guard under Josef ("Sepp") Dietrich, and wishing to enlarge upon this basis, Hitler, entrusted Himmler with the task. This would have been simple enough for any dictator of Hitler's standing, if it had not been for his strong wish to keep on good terms with the regular army.

After Germany's defeat in the First World War the highly restricted and truncated German armed forces looked favourably upon any organisation providing and encouraging basic military training. Thus originally they supported the growth of such organisations as the Freikorps, SA,

[1]C. Santoro : "Hitler's Germany as seen by a Foreigner", 1939, p. 137.

SS and veterans' associations, but when it dawned upon them that the Nazi Party organisations did not intend serving as mere training units, but had pretentions of being an independent armed force, they changed their minds.

Hitler had relied on the backing of the army in his rise to power, and in the uncertain years that followed his taking of office, he had to safeguard his good relations with the Army High Command. This particularly involved restraining Ernst Röhm's massive SA, which was a real threat not only because of its vast size, but also because its leaders had pretentions of forming it into a "people's army". Ironically, the army took less heed of Himmler's comparatively smaller SS, which was eventually to grow into a small Party army all of its own. Yet even in those early days Hitler had to keep a tight rein on Himmler, and prevent the proposed armed SS from growing too fast.

So it was with a certain degree of caution and restraint that the local leaders of the General SS were allowed to start recruiting and training a full-time force able to carry out police and internal security duties. As will be seen from the unit histories that follow, small groups were organised in certain areas of Germany, and in many SS Districts groups of 100 armed men were organised as "Headquarters Guards". When trained these were known as "SS Special Detachments" (SS-Sonderkommandos), which were later renamed "Barracked Centuries" (Kasernierte Hundertschaften). When they reached company strength they were renamed "Political Readiness Detachments" (Politische Bereitschaften).

Such detachments were formed at Munich, Hamburg, Ellwangen and Reutlingen (jointly known as Württemberg), Arolsen, Leisnig (or Dresden), Wolterdingen, and elsewhere.

These Political Readiness Detachments were of battalion size and can be taken as the nucleus of the later SS-VT. For most of them eventually went to make up the SS-VT, with the notable exception of the 3rd, which became a guard unit for the Buchenwald concentration camp.

Reichsführer-SS Heinrich Himmler created the SS-Verfügungstruppen as his personal army for use in case of internal strife, only to have it subordinated to the army in time of war.

PREFACE

Initially it was my intention to limit this work to the subject of uniform; but I found it impossible to describe, and expect readers to understand, the changes in uniform and insignia which occurred in the pre-war and Germanic branches of the SS without first explaining their history and organisation.

In this volume it was essential to describe in detail the growth of the first armed SS units, as their development and role had a direct influence on the design of their uniform.

Volumes 1 and 2 have inspired a number of people to write letters, both critical and complimentary, some of which have contained valuable information which has been incorporated in subsequent editions.

Two of the most persistent criticisms are that insignia have been included which probably existed only on paper; and that variations have been excluded. Out of 138 items of insignia illustrated in Volume 1, only nine are, in my opinion, doubtful. These are the armband on page 27; Plate 13, figs. 1 and 2; Plate 14, figs. 1–4; and Plate 15, figs. 3 and 4. The existence of all others has been confirmed either by actual examples in collections, or by contemporary photographs. Variations are, by their very nature, innumerable, and not sufficiently important to include when space is limited.

Hugh Page Taylor and I are particularly grateful to Mr. Philip Buss and Col. C. M. Dodkins, who despite the fact that they were preparing their own work on the SS unselfishly put at our disposal the results of much of their own researches. Otto Weidinger's series "Division Das Reich" deals in detail with the development of the SS-Verfügungstruppe, and we owe much of our knowledge on this subject to him.

With each volume the number of helpers increases, and I would like to thank the following: George Petersen, Stanley Bozich, David Lee Delich, James Toncar, Elliot Scott Van Ness, Jost W. Schneider, Markus Anaja, F. Ollenschläger; and the directors and staff of the Wiener Library; Institut für Zeitgeschichte, Munich; and Munin Verlag, Osnabrück.

Author's note to third edition

During the preparation of the Errata and Addenda for this volume I was reminded of the enormous amount of time devoted to this series by two generous and knowledgeable people who, sadly, are no longer with us. The first was Friedhelm Ollenschläger, former tank man in the Panzer-Lehr-Division, whose hobby since boyhood had been military uniform. The second was Jost Schneider, who as a young conscript in the Waffen-SS found himself at the end of the war imprisoned in the 'SS Cage' in the former concentration camp of Dachau. Both these men had a great interest in and knowledge of the German armed forces, which they were happy to share with those of us who knew so little but wanted to know more. Although 'Olly' Ollenschläger never had anything of his own published, he contributed enormously to a number of books published in the English language. Jost Schneider had his own work on Knight's Cross Holders of the Waffen-SS and Police published in 1977. Despite the corrections and proof-reading by these two gentlemen an embarrassing number of minor errors—mostly in the plural forms of German nouns—slipped through the net, through no fault of theirs.

In the intervening years original examples of most of the insignia illustrated by line drawings in this volume have found their way into collections, as well as a number of collar patches which were unknown when this volume originally went to print.

Andrew Mollo
Sagonne, 1991

The first unit to be assembled from the small and scattered groups of armed SS men was Hitler's own personal bodyguard, the SS Bodyguard Regiment "Adolf Hitler". As will be seen below, groups from within the Berlin area were unified, and received their new designation at the 1933 Party Day Rally at Nuremberg.

The Leibstandarte was considered a Political Readiness Detachment, and by mid-1934 there were three others of regimental designation. These were the first under SS District South, the second under South-west, and the third under Centre.

On June 30th, 1934, the armed SS was called upon to carry out its first important mission, and one that was to alter its entire future. This was to quell the real, or possibly engineered revolt of Röhm's SA, which had by then grown totally out of control and was causing extreme anxiety among the leaders of the German army. The SA had been planned as a force for political indoctrination and strong-arm purposes, totally subordinate to the Party leadership. Yet its Chief of Staff, Röhm, wanted it to be the military branch of the Party enjoying independence from it, and it was rumoured that he intended combining the SA and SS with the veterans' associations and so creating a people's army, with himself as Minister of Defence. To appease the Army High Command, Hitler decided to turn on his old ally, and ordered Sepp Dietrich to purge Röhm and a number of other suspect high leaders and others. For a week the Leibstandarte, with help from Göring's Prussian State Police Regiment, rounded up and shot many SA leaders and other enemies of Hitler. By so doing they established the supremacy of the SS over the SA, rid Hitler and the army of a dangerous embarassment, and demonstrated the unquestioning obedience and cold ruthlessness of the black corps.

Hitler's reward to the SS for its services during the "Night of the Long Knives" was to remove it from the control of the SA, by elevating it to the status of an independent organisation of the Nazi Party on July 20th, 1934. In return for the services the SS had rendered, the army had to face the reality of the existence of an independent armed force and its gradual expansion.

The actual creation of the SS-VT was officially advised to the chiefs of the three branches of the Wehrmacht in a circular letter dated September 24th, 1934. This document outlined the purpose of the SS-VT, provided for three officer cadet schools, and listed its proposed component units (some of which, of course, were already in existence). It stated that the SS-VT was to be formed on a basis of three regiments modelled on infantry regiments of the army, each to contain three battalions, a motor-cycle company and a mortar company. In addition it was to be supported by a signals battalion. The new formation was to be under the personal command of the Reichsführer-SS except in time of war when it was to be placed at the disposal of the army.

On December 14th, 1934, Himmler ordered the Political Readiness Detachments to be reorganised into battalions and amalgamated with the Leibstandarte.

On March 16th, 1935, Hitler announced to the Reichstag that Germany was re-introducing military conscription. The same day he issued an order officially establishing the SS-VT, although at the time it already consisted of eleven battalions, one of which was of engineers, and another, signals.

July 30th, 1935, saw the formation of the SS Main Office (SS-Hauptamt), which was to organise all branches of the SS, and on October 1st, 1936, a special Inspectorate of the SS-VT was formed to supervise its administration and military training.

On August 17th, 1938, Hitler decreed that the SS-VT was neither a part of the armed forces, nor of the police. He defined it as a permanent armed force exclusively at his own disposal. As such, and as a formation of the Nazi Party, it was to be exclusively recruited and trained in ideological matters by the Reichführer-SS in accordance with the rules of the SS, and it was to be manned by volunteers who had completed their service in the Reich Labour Service (Reichsarbeitsdienst, or R.A.D.) In the event of mobilisation it was to be used for two purposes. First by the C-in-C of the army within the framework of the army. Thus it would be subject exclusively to military law and orders, but politically it would remain a branch of the Nazi Party. Secondly, in the event of an

CONTENTS

	Page
Preface	i
Contents	ii
Introduction	1
Background to the formation of the SS-VT	1
Inspektion der SS-Verfügungstruppe	4
SS-Sanitätsabteilung/VT	5
SS-Leibstandarte "Adolf Hitler"	5
SS-Standarte "Deutschland"	9
SS-Standarte "Germania"	14
SS-Standarte "Der Führer"	17
SS-Nachrichtensturmbann	18
SS-Pioniersturmbann	19
SS-Sturmbann "N"	20
SS-Regiment z.b.V. Ellwangen	21
Miscellaneous units	21
SS Schools	23
Planned but unformed units	26
Replacement units	26
SS Uniform	28
SS Insignia	43
SS Aiguillettes	68
SS Sidearms	70
SS Equipment	76
SS Sports clothes	82
SS Bands	83
SS Flags and Standards	90
Appendices	95
Bibliography	99
Errata & Addenda	100

emergency within Germany herself, the SS-VT would be under Hitler's own orders through the Reichsführer-SS.

In an attempt to lessen the blow to the Army High Command, Hitler continued by mentioning a number of ways in which the army would appear, on the surface at least, to have some control over the armed SS. For example, he decreed that there should be an exchange between officers of the SS-VT and the regular army. His intention was obvious and in the long run might even have brought better understanding between these rival groups, but in effect, whereas a number of SS officers went into army units and thereby gathered valuable experience, there is no trace of any army officers spending any time at all with the SS-VT. Another attempt lay in Hitler's instructions that the Army High Command (OKH) should inspect units of the SS-VT and report to him on their state of preparedness. But again this was a virtually meaningless move, as it was qualified by the fact that permission had first to be obtained from Himmler!

During the mobilisation that preceded the occupation of the Sudetenland in October, 1938, Hitler placed the SS-VT under the command of the army. The Leibstandarte, "Deutschland" and "Germania" regiments actually took part in the occupation and were mentioned with credit in despatches. Soon after it was decided to convert the SS-VT into a paratroop formation, but this idea was not taken up and it was decided to make it into a mobile assault force instead. The Army High Command received orders from Hitler to provide the SS-VT with the equipment necessary for the formation of an SS Artillery Regiment, and this unit was eventually formed. In the spring of 1939 the regiments of the SS-VT, including the Artillery Regiment, were used to fill in gaps in a number of Army armoured divisions which had carried out the occupation of Czechoslovakia, in preparation for the coming of the Second World War.

The SS was not permitted to recruit through the press, and so had to depend on verbal recruitment throughout the Nazi Party, and many members of the General SS were encouraged to transfer into the armed SS. In fact recruitment was restrained in this way even up to the outbreak of the Second World War.

INSPEKTION DER SS-VERFÜGUNGSTRUPPE

The SS as a whole was controlled at first by the SS Office (SS-Amt), and later by the SS Main Office (SS-Hauptamt or SS-HA), which was formed on July 30th, 1935. However, there was no department within this Main Office specifically charged with the supervision of the SS-VT until it was decided in 1936 to create the Inspectorate of the SS-VT (Inspektion der SS-VT). This was a section of the SS Main Office and was situated in Berlin.

The purpose of this new Inspectorate was to mould the scattered and largely ill-trained units of the SS-VT together into an efficient fighting force along army lines. It was not surprising, therefore, to find a senior army officer chosen to be the Inspector. This was Paul Hausser, an ex-Reichswehr Lieutenant-General then an SS-Brigadeführer, who had just before been appointed Inspector of the SS Officer Schools Tölz and Brunswick. Hausser was appointed Inspector of the SS-VT and the Inspectorate itself was established on October 1st, 1936. In fact he continued his role of Inspector of the SS Schools for a time, and so held the double title of "Inspector of the SS-VT and the Officer Schools" ("Der Inspekteur der SS-VT und des SS-Führer-Schulen"). Hausser's Chief of Staff was SS-Obersturmbannführer Matthias Kleinheisterkamp (Chef des Stabes beim Inspekteur der SS-VT).

The creation of the Inspectorate aggravated some of the local SS leaders, who had created these units and were unwilling to hand over control of them to a central authority. Himmler anticipated trouble and on September 17th, 1936, sent a letter to all SS Districts stating that the VT Inspectorate had jurisdiction only over training matters, and would not interfere with the "territorial prerogatives of the SS District over the VT units located in their areas". In spite of this, Sepp Dietrich's Leib-

standarte refused to acknowledge the Inspectorate, and in fact the latter originally had no jurisdiction over Hitler's Bodyguard Regiment, and was only entitled to attend its parades. As a result the Leibstandarte was at first badly trained, and realising this Dietrich finally came into line in early 1938.

Hausser faced an extremely exacting task, but his long experience in military matters and organisation held him in good stead. The Inspectorate welded the SS-VT together, and supervised its administration and military training. Hausser remained Inspector until the outbreak of the Second World War, when he took command of the "Das Reich" division of the Waffen-SS, and before the war was over he was to command an entire Army Group.

The Inspectorate of the SS-VT remained as such until June 1st, 1940, when it was renamed "Headquarters of the Waffen-SS" ("Kommando der Waffen-SS"). On August 15th, 1940, the SS Main Operational Office (SS-Führungshauptamt or SS-FHA) was established, and the Headquarters of the Waffen-SS became its second department (Amt II: Kommandoamt der Waffen-SS).

Inspector: SS-Brigadeführer Paul Hausser.

(An Administration Office of the SS-VT (Truppen Verwaltungsamt der SS-VT) existed at Oranienburg in the IIIrd Military District, and is believed to have been a part of the Inspectorate).

SS-SANITÄTSABTEILUNG/VT

The medical unit of the SS-VT at Freidrichstrasse 236, Berlin SW 68, was responsible for the physical inspection of recruits and the maintenance of health within the armed SS. Independent from all other units, it was subordinate to the SS-VT Inspectorate within the SS Main Office. Its date of formation is uncertain, but it existed in January, 1938. By March of the following year it was reported at Ellwangen. During the Polish campaign of September 1939 the unit was broken up into medical detachments (SS-Sanitätsstaffeln) and hospitals (SS-Lazarette) which were placed with field and home units of the SS-VT.

Commander: SS-Obersturmbannführer Dr. Friedrich Dermietzel.

SS-STANDARTE 1—LEIBSTANDARTE SS ADOLF HITLER
SS-LEIBSTANDARTE ADOLF HITLER

Throughout his political career, Adolf Hitler felt the need for an élite para-military bodyguard. At first the SA served the purpose, although it was not conceived as such, but its standards were low and it grew steadily larger and more unwieldy. Consequently Hitler formed the SS, whose origins can be traced back to the "Adolf Hitler Shock Troop" (Stosstrupp Adolf Hitler) formed in May, 1921, and which took part in the abortive Munich Putsch of November 9th, 1923, and still further back to the original Staff Guard (Stabswache) formed in March, 1921. The SS was created to act as a protection force for Nazi Party speakers at meetings during the years of the struggle for power. Its standards were high and demanding, and yet when Hitler came to power in January, 1933, it had grown to an unwieldy 50,000, with its men owing allegiance more to their local commanders than to the Führer himself. Thus he searched for an élite within an élite—a small, hard-core fanatical group composed of only the "purest" Aryans that would have the sole purpose of protecting the person of Adolf Hitler.

The SS had always been a far more reliable group than the SA and its members were subjected to much tougher entry requirements. Yet with the exception of the Staff Guard and the Adolf Hitler Shock Troop it was a body of part-timers, and what Hitler sought was a full-time, highly-trained, armed and barracked force permanently at his disposal. The task of forming such a unit was entrusted to a former army n.c.o., Josef ("Sepp") Dietrich, who had risen to the rank of a general within the SS (SS-Gruppenführer) through his position as Hitler's closest personal bodyguard. Dietrich is said to have formed the SS Staff Guard Berlin (SS-Stabswache Berlin) on March 17th, 1933,* and it was made up of 120 hand-picked SS men, some of whom were former members of the Adolf Hitler Shock Troop.

*Some sources state the Dietrich was not involved until September, 1933.

Members of the LAH in drill uniform. The officer and n.c.o.'s wear black caps and breeches, whereas the men have earth-grey field caps and drill trousers. The brassard was rarely worn with drill uniform.
Bozich Collection.

This Berlin SS Staff Guard was barracked at the Alexander Barracks in Berlin, but later moved into those at Berlin-Lichterfelde on the outskirts of the capital.

Soon after its creation the Berlin SS Staff Guard was reformed as SS Special Detachment Zossen (SS-Sonderkommando Zossen), with three training companies. In June, 1933, three new companies were formed and called SS Special Detachment Jüterbog, and at the Party Day Rally of September, 1933, in Nuremberg ("Der Kongress des Sieges") both detachments were merged together and renamed the SS Bodyguard Regiment "Adolf Hitler" (SS-Leibstandarte "Adolf Hitler"), or "LAH". On November 9th, 1933, on the tenth anniversary of the Munich Putsch, this new unit took a personal oath to Adolf Hitler.

An order dated May 5th, 1934, referred to the Leibstandarte as a Political Readiness Detachment (Politische Bereitschaft) and stated that its men should wear a cuffband with the inscription "Adolf Hitler" and a collar patch with the two victory runes of the SS.*

On June 30th, 1934, the Leibstandarte helped quell the so-called Röhm Putsch, and was largely responsible for the liquidation of many of Hitler's enemies within the SA, in particular its Chief of Staff, Ernst Röhm. It is believed that on the very same evening Hitler promised Dietrich that the Leibstandarte would be expanded into a fully-equipped regiment as a reward for its services.

In early October, 1934, it was decided that the Leibstandarte should be motorised, and in fact the unit was designated as such before the end of the month. It consisted of staff, three battalions, a motor-cycle company, and a mortar company. On October 4th, 1934, it, or possibly only its staff, was at Rothenburgstrasse 12, Berlin Steglitz; a report of the following day gave Jüterbog and Berlin-Lichterfelde, and by the 26th of the month the entire unit was at Berlin-Lichterfelde. At this time the Leibstandarte had grown to the following composition:

Stab SS-Standarte (mot)	regimental staff
3 Stäbe SS-Sturmbann (mot)	3 battalion staffs
3 Sturmbanne (mot)	3 motorised battalions
1 SS-Kradschützen-Sturm	1 motor-cycle company
9 SS-Schützen-Stürme (mot)	9 motorised infantry companies
3 SS-Maschinengewehr-Stürme (mot)	3 motorised machine gun companies
1 SS-Minenwerfer-Sturm (mot)	1 motorised mortar company (possibly formed a little later)
3 SS-Nachrichten-Züge (mot) Stab SS-Standarte (mot)	3 motorised signals platoons for regimental staffs (one for each battalion)
3 SS-Nachrichten-Züge (mot) SS-Sturmbann (mot)	3 motorised signals platoons for motorised battalions
1 SS-Panzerspäh-Zug	1 armoured car platoon
1 SS-Musikzug SS-Standarte	1 regimental band

On March 11th, 1938, Germany annexed Austria, and a motorised battalion of the Leibstandarte under Sepp Dietrich took part in this annexation together with forward units of General Guderian's XVIth Army Corps.

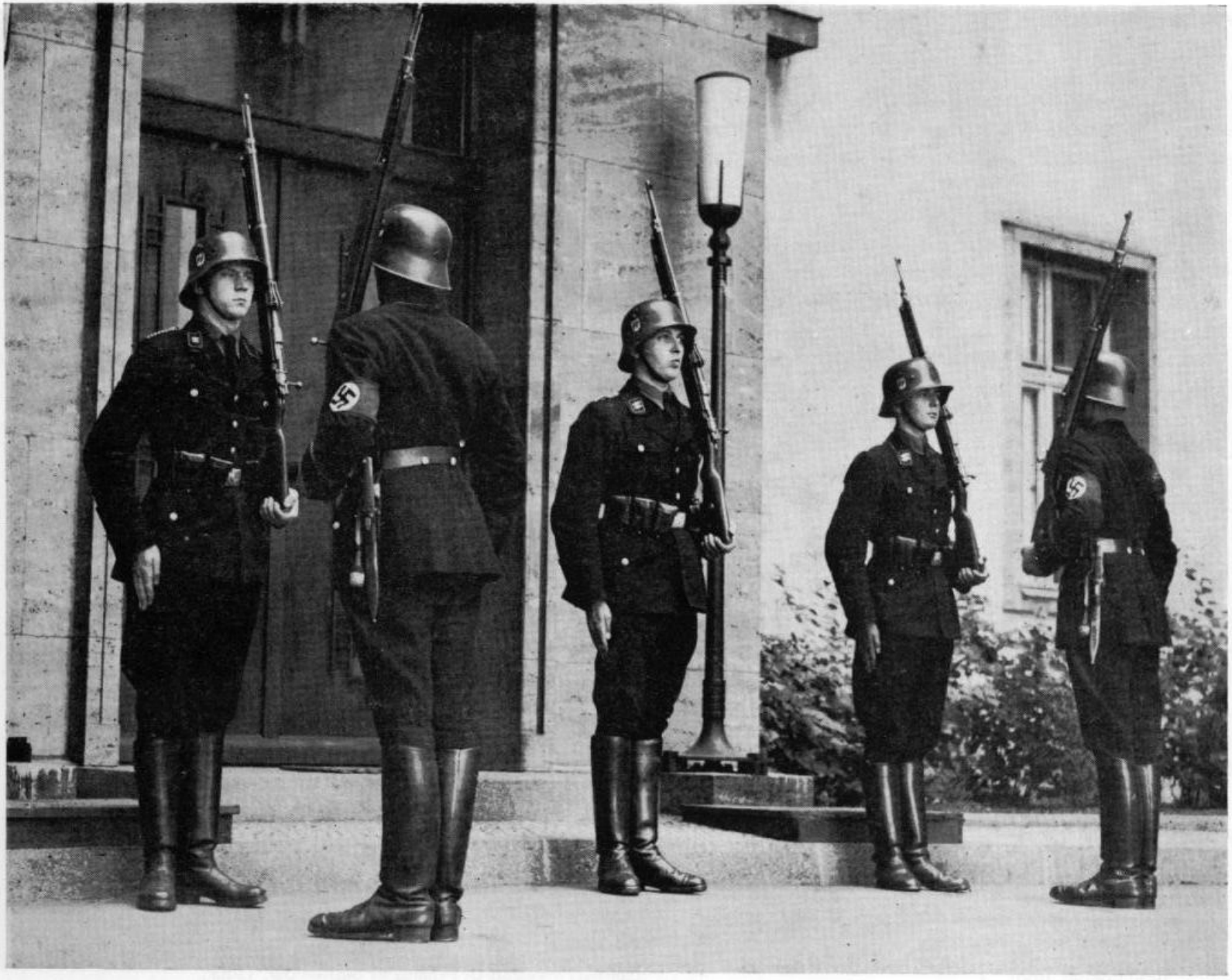
After the Austrian operation orders were given concerning the units of the SS-VT upon mobilisation, and it was ordered that the Leibstandarte should be reinforced by the following units in the event of mobilisation for use in the interior of Germany:

1 Panzerspäh-Zug	1 armoured car platoon
1 Kradschützen-Sturm	1 motor-cycle company
1 Kraft-Pionier-Zug	1 motorised engineer platoon

It appears that it did in fact receive the first and last of these, but not the second (it did already have a motor-cycle company).

The following is the order of battle of the Leibstandarte at the time of the German invasion of Poland in September, 1939:

* It was originally intended that the Leibstandarte should be numbered in the same sequence as the other Political Readiness Detachments, and in early 1934 it was known as "SS-Standarte 1—Leibstandarte SS Adolf Hitler". Hitler changed the order, however, and the Leibstandarte was withdrawn from the series and the other detachments renumbered from "1".



The Reich's Chancellery Guard Detachment on duty, 1935. National Archives.

Stab	staff
Nachrichten-Zug	signals platoon
Kradmeldezug	motor-cycle despatch platoon
Musikkorps	band
3 Infanterie-Bataillonen (mot)	3 motorised infantry battalions
13. Infanteriegeschütz-Kompanie (mot)	13th motorised infantry gun company (8 light infantry guns)
14. Panzerabwehr-Kompanie (mot)	14th motorised anti-tank company
15. Kradschützen-Kompanie	15th motor-cycle company
Rgt. Pioneer-Zug (mot)	motorised regimental engineer platoon*
Panzerspäh-Zug	armoured car platoon

In addition to the above field units, there was also the IVth Guard Battalion (IV. Wach-Bataillon) maintained by the Leibstandarte at their peace-time garrison in Berlin-Lichterfelde to guard the Reich's Chancellery and Hitler's home at Obersalzburg.

All elements of the Leibstandarte, apart from the Guard Battalion and the replacement unit, took part in the invasion of Poland in September, 1939, supported by the SS Engineer Battalion (SS-Pionier-Sturmbann). The unit came under General Walter von Reichenau's 10th Army, which invaded Poland from Silesia.

Commander: SS-Gruppenführer ("Sepp") Dietrich

* Presumably the planned reinforcements, though not for use in Germany.

SS-STANDARTE 2/VT
SS-STANDARTE 1/VT
SS-STANDARTE "DEUTSCHLAND"
SS-REGIMENT "DEUTSCHLAND"

The regiment of the SS-VT that eventually received the name "Germany" ("Deutschland") was the product of the fusion of a number of local, full-time, SS units. These were created during the early 1930s, and as the history of "Deutschland" is bound-up with them, they must be considered before anything else.

The first unit to be formed was the Political Readiness Detachment Württemberg (Politische Bereitschaft Württemberg), known as "PBW". It had been begun in May 1933 when the South-West SS District (SS-Oberabschnitt Südwest) formed company-sized advance parties (Vorkommandos) in the Württemberg towns of Oberndorf, Reutlingen and Trossingen. These advance parties were brought together at the old n.c.o. school at Ellwangen/Jagst to form a battalion of four companies under a ten-man battalion staff.

The PBW at first became the IIIrd Battalion of the 3rd SS Regiment (subsequently renumbered the 2nd) and then the IIIrd Battalion of the 1st SS Regiment in Munich (III. Bataillon der SS-Standarte 1/VT München). Its companies were numbered 9 to 12, but on July 1st, 1936, it was renumbered the IVth Battalion, with its companies becoming the 16th to 19th, as a new IIIrd Battalion had been formed in Munich.

A second unit that had been formed in the meantime was the Political Readiness Detachment Munich (Politische Bereitschaft München), or "PBM". This was established on July 1st, 1934, by SS District South in Munich (SS-Oberabschnitt Süd, München) from recruits of the General SS undergoing military training in police barracks. It consisted of three infantry companies (Infanterie-Stürme) and a machine gun company (Maschinengewehr-Sturm/Kompanie), and was commanded by SS-Sturmbannführer Ritter von Hengl. In the

summer of 1934 it was increased by two more battalions and organised as a regiment.

This was in fact the beginning of the "Deutschland" regiment, originally named the 2nd SS Regiment (SS-Standarte 2), but later renumbered to become the 1st (SS-Standarte 1) when it was decided not to start the numbering of the SS-VT regiments from "1" with the Leibstandarte.

On October 1st, 1934, the PBM became the 1st Battalion of the 1st Regiment of the SS-VT (I. Bataillon der SS-Standarte 1 der SS-Verfügungstruppe, or I/SS 1.-VT), and a few days later was split up between the police barracks in Munich.

In the autumn of 1934 the battalion was moved from its original home in the Max II barracks (Max II-Kaserne) in the Winzererstrasse (Winzer-kaserne) in Munich to the Alte Wilhelmspital in Herzog-Wilhelm-Strasse, in the centre of the old part of the town.

The II Battalion of the regiment was created from Austrians, many of whom came from the SS reception camp at Schleissheim situated at the Prittlbach training area (SS-Hilfswerklager (HWL) Schleissheim). This unit was based at Prittlbach and when Hitler saw it march past at the 1934 Party Day Rally ("Der Kongress zu Nürnberg", 5th-10th September) he was sufficiently impressed to issue an order for it to be brought within the SS-VT as a battalion. This was at first named "Hilfswerk Schleissheim", and later the IInd Battalion of the 1st SS Regiment at Munich (II. Sturmbann der SS-Standarte 1), although for a time it was stationed at the Dachau concentration camp. At the Party Day Rally of 1935 ("Der Parteitag der Freiheit", September 15th) it became the IInd Battalion of the SS Regiment "Deutschland". Its first commander was SS-Obersturmbannführer Ranfft, who was succeeded at the beginning of April 1935 by SS-Sturmbannführer Carl-Maria Demelhuber.

As has already been seen above, the IIIrd Battalion evolved from the Württemberg Political Readiness Detachment, and was stationed at Bernhardstrasse 62, Dresden A 27. It was at first commanded by SS-Sturmbannführer Karl Koch, then by SS-Obersturmbannführer von Gottberg, and was renumbered the IVth Battalion upon the creation of a new IIIrd battalion on July 1st, 1936.

This new IIIrd Battalion was formed at the regiment's barracks at München-Freimann, and the original IIIrd Battalion was renumbered the IVth. The cadre of this new battalion was drawn from the Ist and IVth Battalions of the same regiment. The regiment did not obtain its staff until this time.

So far we have seen how four independent battalions that were to make up "Deutschland" were formed. Regimental companies, however, were also established during this time. A cadre for the 13th Mortar Company (13. Minenwerfer-Sturm/Kompanie) was gathered together in October 1934 and the Company itself formed from volunteers on January 2nd, 1935, under the command of SS-Hauptsturmführer Müller. This company was armed with mortars, 98k carbines, bayonets and Luger PO8 automatic pistols in the spring of 1935, and in the summer of the following year went to the München-Freimann barracks and came directly under the command of "Deutschland". The 14th Anti-tank Company (14. Panzerabwehr-Sturm/Kompanie) was formed on October 1st, 1937, at the regimental barracks under SS-Hauptsturm-führer Dr. Ing. Brandt. On January 7th, 1935, a cadre was formed in Munich for an SS Motor-cycle Company (SS-Kradschützen-Sturm), which was renamed on March 14th, 1935 (or even earlier), the 14th Company of the regiment and came within the Ist Battalion. It came under "Deutschland" on July 1st, 1936, and on October 1st became the 15th Company of that regiment.

Now to study the regiment as a whole.

Originally named the 2nd SS Regiment, it took over the title of 1st SS Regiment when the Leibstandarte dropped out of the regimental numbering sequence in 1934. By December 18th, 1934, it contained two battalions, a motor-cycle company and a mortar company in Munich, and a third battalion at Ellwangen. By October 5th, 1934, at the latest it was decided to form the 1st Regiment of the SS-VT in southern Germany, and the separate units already formed for it were brought together (namely the Ist Battalion in Munich, the IInd at the Dachau concentration camp, and the IIIrd at Ellwangen/Jagst). To

Commander of the 1st Battalion SS Regiment "Deutschland", SS-Obersturmbannführer Ritter von Hengl. He wears an earth-grey service tunic with two shoulder cords and an army pattern national emblem on the sleeve, 1934(?).
Munin Verlag.

Right.

Daladier inspects the guard of honour of Regiment "Deutschland". September, 1939.

administer this regiment a planning staff (Arbeitsstab) was established in the early summer of 1935, which on July 1st, 1936, became the regimental staff under SS-Hauptsturmführer Jüttner.
By mid-February, 1935, a reconnaissance platoon was added to the motor-cycle company, and the regiment's order of battle was as follows:

3 Stäbe SS-Sturmbann	3 staffs (one per battalion)
9 SS-Schützen-Stürme	9 rifle companies (three per battalion)
1 SS-Kradschützen-Sturm	1 motor-cycle company
3 SS-Maschinengewehr-Stürme	3 machine gun companies
1 SS-Minenwerfer-Sturm	1 mortar company
3 SS-Nachrichten-Züge SS-Sturmbann	3 signals platoons
1 SS-Panzerspäh-Zug	1 armoured car platoon
2 SS-Musikzüge SS-Sturmbann	2 bands
3 SS-Kraftfahrkolonnen	3 motor transport columns

At the Party Day Rally at Nuremberg in September 1935 ("Der Parteitag der Freiheit"), the 1st SS Regiment was given the honour title of "Germany" ("Deutschland"), and at the same ceremony received its regimental standard and battalion flags. In the autumn of 1935 a motor transport column (Kraftfahrkolonne or KK) was added to the IIIrd Battalion.

In October 1935 the Ist and IInd Battalions, together with the 13th and 14th Companies, went to the Königsbrück training area near Dresden for training. At this time Ritter von Hengl left the regiment to join the alpine troops of the army and was succeeded as commander of the Ist Battalion by SS-Sturmbannführer Georg Keppler. The regiment moved into its new barracks at München-Freimann on November 7th, 1935. Two days later, on the 9th, units from Munich, Dachau and Ellwangen took part in a commemorative ceremony for the 1923 Putsch at the Feldherrnhalle monument in Munich, and wore for the first time the cuffband with the Gothic inscription "Deutschland". In March, 1936, the battalions of the regiment were stationed at Munich.

Heinrich Himmler, Adolf Hitler and SS-Brigadeführer Paul Hausser watch "Battle readiness manoeuvres" of Regiment "Deutschland" in 1939.

Ellwangen and Dachau, and the last of these should not be confused with the concentration camp guard units at the same location.

With effect from July 1st, 1936, all the independent battalions and regimental companies (i.e. the 13th and 14th) were organised as SS Regiment "Deutschland", and the former commander of the IIIrd battalion at Ellwangen, SS-Obersturmbannführer Felix Steiner, was promoted to SS-Standartenführer and regimental commander (SS-Obersturmbannführer Schinke taking over command of the IIIrd battalion). At the same time the IIIrd battalion was renumbered the IVth at München-Freimann, as the new IIIrd battalion had been formed. "Deutschland" had grown to a strength of four battalions, but otherwise had the same composition as an infantry regiment of the army. At the end of September, 1936, SS-Obersturmbannführer Demelhuber handed over command of the IInd battalion to SS-Sturmbannführer Wilhelm Bittrich, and went to form SS Regiment "Germania". On March 23rd, 1938, SS-Obersturmbannführer Georg Keppler went to form the SS Regiment "Der Führer", and left the command of the Ist battalion to SS-Sturmbannführer Hinrich Schuldt.

During the mobilisation preceding the occupation of the Sudetenland in October 1938, "Deutschland", together with the rest of the SS-VT, was placed under the command of the army on Hitler's orders, and actually took part in the occupation.

After the annexation of Austria orders were given in mid-August 1938 to reinforce "Deutschland" in the event of mobilisation for use within Germany. It was to receive an extra armoured car platoon, a light infantry motor-cycle company (which it never got), and a number of additional communications sub-units.

"Deutschland" became a motorised regiment at the end of 1938. In the spring of 1939 the regiments of the SS-VT were used to fill in gaps in a number of armoured divisions that carried out the occupation of Czechoslovakia. "Deutschland" took part in the annexation of Bohemia and Moravia on March 15th, 1939, and in May went for training at the Münsterlager training area. While there it carried out extremely tough and hazardous manoeuvres using live ammunition, and Hitler, who was present, was so impressed that he gave his permission for the expansion of the SS-VT into a division. (In fact a motorised SS division had been envisaged much earlier, even in September 1934). The idea was postponed, however, as units of the SS-VT were integrated with those of the army in preparation for the coming of the Second World War, and on August 10th, 1939, "Deutschland" formed a part of Panzerdivision Kempf (Panzerverband Ostpreussen). This division was made up principally of units of the army, with the addition of "Deutschland" and other units of the SS-VT. It took part in the invasion of Poland on September 1st, 1939, and afterwards the "Deutschland" regiment was organised as the Leibstandarte, but without the engineer platoon, viz:

Regiment Stab	regimental staff
Nachrichten-Zug	signals platoon
Kradschützen-Zug	motor-cycle platoon
Musikkorps	band
I. Infanterie-Bataillon (mot)	Ist motorised infantry battalion
II. Infanterie-Bataillon (mot)	IInd motorised infantry battalion
III. Infanterie-Bataillon (mot)	IIIrd motorised infantry battalion
13. Infanterie-Geschütz-Kompanie (mot)	13th motorised infantry gun company (with 8 light infantry guns)
14. Panzerabwehr-Kompanie (mot)	14th motorised anti-tank company
15. Kradschützen-Kompanie	15th armoured car platoon

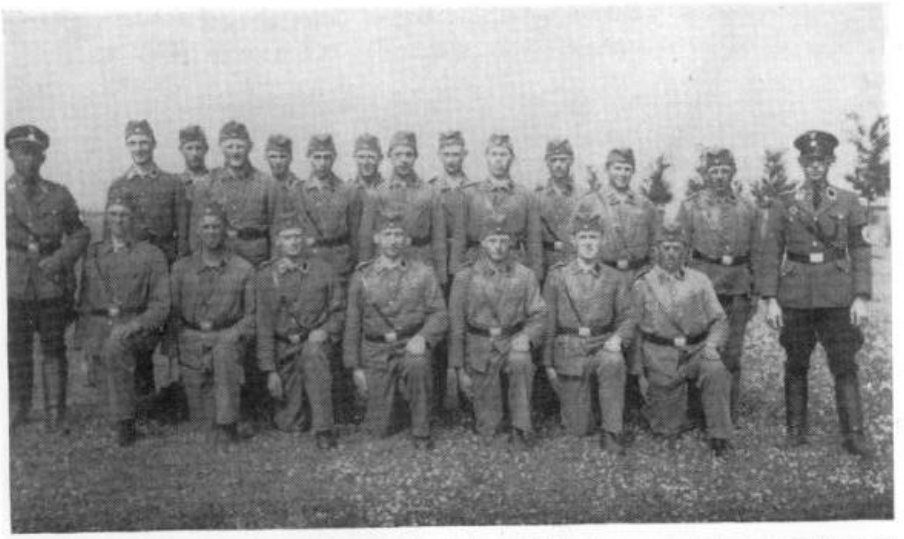
After the Polish campaign, "Deutschland" joined the regiments "Germania" and "Der Führer" to form the SS Special Purpose Division (SS-Verfügungs-Division), later named "Reich" and finally the Waffen-SS Division "Das Reich".

Commander: SS-Standartenführer Felix Steiner

SS-STANDARTE 3/VT
SS-STANDARTE 2/VT
SS-STANDARTE "GERMANIA"
SS-REGIMENT "GERMANIA"

Reichsführer-SS Heinrich Himmler instructed SS-Hauptsturmführer Wilhelm Bittrich to form a Political Readiness Detachment (Politische Bereitschaft) in Hamburg on August 25th, 1934. This unit later became the Ist Battalion of the "Germania" regiment. It contained three rifle companies and a machine gun company and its men came mainly from the General SS. SS-Sturmbannführer Wäckerle took over from Bittrich on April 1st, 1935, and commanded it until he went to form the "Der Führer" regiment, and in turn was replaced by SS-Hauptsturmführer Schmidhuber.

A battalion for the future regiment having been formed in Hamburg, Himmler ordered a second to be formed by SS-Sturmbannführer Walter Krüger in the spring of 1935. This was raised at Arolsen, and received the designation of IInd Battalion of the 2nd Regiment of the SS-VT. The first two dozen men came from the 1st Regiment in Munich on Hitler's birthday (April 20th) 1935, and this can be taken as the unit's date of formation. Volunteers then came in, mainly from the General SS, from all parts of Germany from May to June, 1935. The battalion then had a commander, adjutant and companies numbered the 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th. Its organisation was basically the same as an infantry battalion of the army, with staff, three rifle companies and a machine-gun company. Between October 4th and 29th the battalion's n.c.o.'s attended a training course at the Altengrabow training area, and on the anniversary of the 9th of November Putsch in Munich it was sworn in at the Feldherrnhalle monument. At the end of 1937 SS-Sturmbannführer Krüger was succeeded by SS-Hauptsturmführer Gille (who, in April 1939, went to the newly established SS Artillery Regiment, and was replaced by SS-Sturmbannführer Dörffler-Schuband).



Politische Bereitschaft Hamburg at training. This photograph is interesting as it shows officers, n.c.o.'s and men in drill uniform. On their collar patches they have the Sub-district number in roman numerals (XX). Schneider Archiv.

The original IIIrd battalion was raised in 1934, was known as the IIIrd battalion of the 3rd SS Regiment), and stationed at Horvestehuderweg 8a, Hamburg. Its commander was SS-Sturmbannführer Wilhelm Bittrich. However, a new IIIrd battalion was formed as an advance party (Vorkommando) on April 1st, 1935, by SS District Centre (SS-Oberabschnitt Mitte), and situated at Wolterdingen near Soltau in Niedersachsen. It was equipped with weapons and vehicles supplied by the Brunswick police school in June, 1935, and was later organised as an infantry battalion with a 12th machine gun company. The battalion's original commander was SS-Sturmbannführer Giebeler, who was replaced at the end of September, 1935, by SS-Hauptsturmführer Meyer. On June 30th, 1937, the battalion left Wolterdingen and moved into its new barracks at Radolfzell.

Apart from its three battalions, "Germania" contained the 13th, 14th and 15th companies, as well as an armoured car platoon. The 13th was a mortar company (one source gives it as an infantry gun company), formed in 1935 under SS-Hauptsturmführer Priess. The original 14th was a motor-cycle company, but this was renumbered the 13th when the regiment's anti-tank company was established. This anti-tank company took over the number 14. It had evolved from a cadre formed in the early summer of 1936 in Hamburg-Veddel (or Überseeheim?) under SS-Hauptsturmführer Frimmersdorf. Its men came from the 15th company, and it was actually formed in July and August 1938. Soon afterwards it moved to barracks at Hamburg-Langenhorn, and was equipped with weapons and vehicles in the early summer of 1938. The 15th (originally numbered 14th) was a motor-cycle company, formed at Unna in Westphalia under SS-Obersturmführer Knoll. Its men came mainly from the three battalions of "Germania", and it was equipped with weapons and vehicles in the spring of 1936. In the autumn of that year Knoll was replaced as the company's commander by SS-Obersturmführer Wolferseder, who had previously been with "Deutschland". The armoured car platoon was formed in the early summer of 1938 in Hamburg-Veddel under SS-Obersturmführer Stange. In early October 1934 the unit was known as the 3rd SS Regiment, it still had no staff and only two of its battalions actually existed:

I. Sturmbann	Ellwangen a.d. Jagst	von Gottberg
II. Sturmbann	not yet formed	
III. Sturmbann	Hamburg	Bittrich

Soon after it was renumbered the 2nd SS Regiment, but its battalions had still not come together as a true regiment. Its order of battle is listed below as of late October 1934:

I. Sturmbann	Hamburg (possibly with one of its companies at Wismar by this time)
II. Sturmbann	Arolsen
III. Sturmbann	Wolterdingen near Soltau
13. Minenwerfer-Sturm	Wismar
14. Kradschützen-Sturm	Wismar

A few months later, on February 13th, 1935, the regiment was still known as SS Regiment 2, with no battalion staff, and its principal units in the following towns:

I. SS-Sturmbann	Hamburg (with one of its companies at Wismar)
II. SS-Sturmbann	Arolsen
III. SS-Sturmbann	Wolterdingen near Soltau
13. SS-Minenwerfer-Sturm	Wismar
14. SS-Kradschützen-Sturm	Hamburg
Späh-Zug	Hamburg

The components of the regiment at this time were as follows:

3 Stäbe SS-Sturmbann	3 staffs (one per battalion)
9 SS-Schützen-Stürme	9 rifle companies (three per battalion)
1 SS-Kradschützen-Sturm	1 motor-cycle company
3 SS-Maschinengewehr-Stürme	3 machine-gun companies
1 SS-Minenwerfer-Sturm	1 mortar company
3 SS-Nachrichten-Züge SS-Sturmbann	3 signals platoons
1 SS-Panzerspäh-Zug	1 armoured car platoon
3 SS-Musikzüge SS-Sturmbann	3 bands
3 SS-Kraftfahrkolonnen	3 motor transport columns

One source states that the 2nd SS Regiment was renamed "Germania" (SS-Standarte "Germania") in April, 1935, but an official document of August 12th of that year still referred to it by the old title. By March 1936 units of the regiment were at Hamburg-Veddel, Arolsen, Wolterdingen near Soltau, Unna and Wismar.

The name "Germania", as well as the regimental standard and battalion flags, were presented to the regiment at the Party Day Rally at Nuremberg in September 1936 ("Der Parteitag der Ehre"). The official date was given as October 1st, and on this day the regimental components were brought together under a newly-formed regimental staff. The order of battle at this time was as follows:

Stab	staff
I. Bataillon (Hamburg)	1st battalion at Hamburg
II. Bataillon (Arolsen/Waldeck)	IInd battalion at Arolsen
III. Bataillon (Wolterdingen)	IIIrd battalion at Wolterdingen
13. Infanteriegeschütz-Kompanie (Wismar)	13th infantry gun company at Wismar
14. Panzerabwehr-Kompanie (Hamburg-Veddel)	14th anti-tank company at Hamburg-Veddel
15. Kradschützen-Kompanie	15th motor-cycle company

On March 13th, 1938, "Germania" was amongst the German troops that marched into Austria. In the summer of the same year, the regiment carried out security duties during Benito Mussolini's visit to Germany. By August 1st "Germania" was known as an SS regiment organised like an infantry regiment of the army. It was ordered that in the event of mobilisation in the interior of Germany, "Germania" was to receive an additional armoured car platoon, a light infantry motor-cycle company, and other additional communications sub-units.

In the autumn of 1938 "Germania" assembled at the Königsbrück training area near Dresden and was placed under the 4th Infantry Division. It was under this formation that it took part in the march into the Sudetenland. Once in Czechoslovakia the regiment was stationed in Prague and served as the Guard Regiment of the Protector of Bohemia and Moravia (Wach-Regiment des "Reichsprotektors von Böhmen und Mähren"). (The IIIrd battalion served as a Guard Battalion in Prague from March 1939 until July 31st, 1939). "Germania" was relieved from its duties in Prague and its elements were brought together again at Königsbrück on August 17th, 1939. In the summer of that year the regimental staff and Ist battalion were still at Hamburg-Veddel, the IInd battalion at Arolsen, and the IIIrd at Radolfzell.

During the night of the 16th/17th of August, 1939, "Germania" was alerted and brought together at Königsbrück in preparation for the coming of the Second World War. It was than placed under the 14th Army for the Polish campaign, and other than having its armoured car platoon serving under the 8th Reconnaissance Unit of the 8th Armoured Division of the German army its order of battle was the same as that of the "Deutschland" regiment. Its designation by this time was that of a motorised regiment (SS-Standarte "Germania" (mot)). Commander: SS-Standartenführer Carl-Maria Demelhuber.

The standard and battalion flags of the SS Regiment "Germania", 1939(?). Bundesarchiv Koblenz.

SS-STANDARTE 3
SS-STANDARTE "DER FÜHRER"

Upon the annexation of Austria in March, 1938, Adolf Hitler ordered that a new regiment for the SS-VT should be formed in his homeland. He instructed SS-Oberführer Georg Keppler, previously the commander of the Ist Battalion of "Deutschland", to start organising the regiment that was later to receive one of the most honoured titles of Nazi Germany—"Der Führer"—Hitler's own title.

Unlike the Leibstandarte, "Deutschland" and "Germania", this new regiment was based upon men transferred from other units of the SS-VT, and not from General SS personnel. Later volunteers were mostly Austrians, and came from the Tirol, Steiermark, Kärnten, Vienna and Salzburg, Ober-Österreich and Burgenland.

Prior to its naming, the regiment was known as the 3rd SS Regiment (SS-Standarte 3), which should not be confused with the early Political Readiness Detachment that bore the same designation in 1934.

At the end of April, 1938, the regiment's 1st Battalion was installed in the Radetzky barracks on the Schmelz in Vienna, and its staff in a house on the Kopfgasse. The Ist Battalion was commanded by SS-Sturmbannführer Wilhelm Bittrich, previously commander of the IInd Battalion of "Deutschland", which had itself been formed from the predominantly Austrian "Hilfswerklager Schleissheim". It was from this IInd Battalion of "Deutschland" that elements were brought to Vienna to provide cadres for both the IInd and IIIrd Battalions of the new Austrian SS Regiment.

The IInd Battalion was established in the Tobelbad spa, south-west of Graz, and was commanded by the former CO of the 8th Machine Gun Company of the IInd Battalion of "Deutschland", SS-Sturmbannführer von Scholz.

The IIIrd Battalion was based in a school in Klagenfurt, and was commanded by the former CO of the Ist Battalion of "Germania", SS-Sturmbannführer Wäckerle.

In addition to its three battalions, this regiment had three regimental companies numbered the 13th, 14th and 15th, stationed in Vienna.

At the Party Day Rally of 1938 ("Der Parteitag Grossdeutschland") held in Nuremberg between the 5th and 9th of September, the regiment was given its honour title "Der Führer", and was also presented its regimental standard and battalion flags.

In the event of mobilisation for action within Greater Germany itself (which by then of course contained Austria), "Der Führer" was to have received an extra armoured reconnaissance platoon, a light infantry motor-cycle company and a number of additional communications sub-units.

By March, 1939, the regiment had been fully motorised as SS-Standarte "Der Führer" (mot), and took part in the occupation of Czechoslovakia. Then in June of that year it began service as a Guard Regiment of the Protector of Bohemia and Moravia, von Neurath (Wach-Regiment des Reichsprotektors von Böhmen und Mähren). After this duty was concluded the regiment resumed training, but upon the outbreak of the Second World War was not ready for action. Thus, unlike the other units of the SS-VT, that invaded Poland with units of the German army, "Der Führer" spent September 1939 manning a section of Germany's West Wall on the Oberrhein-Front Breisach-Freiburg under the command of the 7th Army. Its order of battle at this time was the same as that of "Deutschland".

In October, 1939, when the invasion of Poland had been successfully completed, "Der Führer" joined other units of the SS-VT to create the SS Special Purpose Division (SS-Verfügungs-Division).

Commander: SS-Oberführer Georg Keppler.

SS-NACHRICHTENSTURMBANN
SS-NACHRICHTENABTEILUNG
NACHRICHTENABTEILUNG/SS-VT

A signals battalion for the SS-VT was envisaged towards the end of 1934, and by mid-December of that year it was planned with a staff and two companies at Spandau[1]. By mid-February 1935 its composition had been established as follows[2]:

Stab SS-Nachrichten-Sturmbann (t mot)	staff
SS-Fernsprech-Sturm (t mot)	partly motorised telephone company
SS-Funk-Sturm (t mot)	partly motorised wireless company
SS-Musikzug SS-Nachrichten-Sturmbann	band

In fact the signals battalion was officially created on March 1st, 1935, and followed intensive training of SS men and officers at the Reich Signals School in Berlin-Lichtenberg and SS Officer School Tölz. Such training had been begun in the latter part of 1934, when the SS Main Office arranged for a number of SS men to attend signals courses. The unit was organised as a motorised signals battalion of a motorised infantry division, and its composition was as follows:

Stab	staff
Fernsprech-Kompanie	telephone company
Funk-Kompanie	wireless company
Trompeter-Korps/Musik-Korps	band
Waffenmeisterei	armourer's shop
1 Kraftfahrzeug-Werkstatt	motor transport workshop
1 Kraftfahrzeug-Meister	motor transport mechanic
1 Kraftfahrzeug-Schlosserei	motor transport fitting shop

It took the oath on November 9th, 1935, in front of the Feldherrnhalle monument in Munich, and in March 1936 was stationed at Berlin-Adlershof.

On March 11th, 1938, the battalion was alerted for action, and the following day its motorised units rolled towards Vienna, with its horse-drawn elements following by train. On the 13th, the reformed battalion entered Vienna, and made use of its 6 weeks stay in the Austrian capital by setting up a radio link between Vienna, Graz, Klagenfurt, Salzburg and Innsbruck. Thereafter it returned to Germany and moved into its new barracks at Unna in Westphalia.

Under mobilisation in the spring of 1938 the signals battalion was placed under the VIth Army Corps at Münster and took part in the march into the Sudetenland. By August it had become partly motorised and on March 5th, 1939, it went into Austria and later to Prague. When it returned to Germany the VIth Army Corps brought it up to the status of a signals battalion of a motorised infantry division (Nachrichten-Abteilung einer Infanterie-Division (mot)).

On August 10th, 1939, the battalion joined Panzerdivision Kempf (Panzer Verband Ostpreussen), and as a fully motorised battalion took part in the Polish campaign. At that time it consisted of staff, telephone company, wireless company and light signals column.

Commanders: SS-Sturmbannführer Buch
SS-Sturmbannführer Ballauff
SS-Sturmbannführer Manger
SS-Sturmbannführer von Treuenfels
SS-Sturmbannführer Weiss.

[1]Der Chef der Heeresleitung, Geheime Kommandosache, Berlin, 18.12.34.

[2]Der Chef der Heeresleitung, Geheime Kommandosache, Berlin, 13.2.35.

SS-PIONIERSTURMBANN "DRESDEN"
SS-PIONIERBATAILLON "DRESDEN"

In mid-December 1934[1] an engineer battalion for the SS-VT was planned, and its proposed structure was given as follows:

Stab	staff
Nachrichten-Zug	signals platoon
2 Pionierstürme	2 engineer companies
1 Pioniersturm (mot)	1 motorised engineer company (with a bridging column and an electrical and mechanical tools park)

In early February 1935 a 24 man cadre was gathered together for the creation of the engineer battalion of the SS-VT* At this time its proposed order of battle was listed in more detail, as follows:

Stab SS-Pionier-Sturmbann (t mot)	battalion staff
2 SS-Pionier-Stürme	2 engineer companies
1 SS-Pionier-Sturm (mot)	1 motorised engineer company
1 SS-Pionier-Gerätestaffel	1 engineer electrical and mechanical tools park
1 SS-Brückenkolonne B (mot)	1 motorised bridging column "B"
1 SS-Nachrichtenzug (mot) SS-Pionier-Sturmbann (mot)	1 motorised signals platoon
1 SS-Musikzug SS-Pionier-Sturmbann	1 band

The new engineer battalion of the SS-VT was to have been garrisoned at Dresden, but in fact it was not officially established until April 1st, 1935, with its sub-units located at Leisnig and Fischendorf as follows:
A-mot. Pionier-Bataillon im Rahmen der SS-VT:

Stab	staff	Leisnig
1. Kompanie	1st company	Fischendorf
2. Kompanie	2nd company	Leisnig
3. Kompanie	3rd company	Fischendorf
Musikzug	band	Leisnig
Krankenrevier	sick bay	Fischendorf

The battalion was moved to Dresden in 1935/1936, and it is reported to have been at Leisnig as late as March 1936. Barracks, called "Wilden Mann", were built for it in north Dresden and these were occupied in March 1937.

On March 3rd, 1938, the engineer battalion marched with the German army into Austria, and was later one of the first German units to cross the frontier into Bohemia.

By August 1938 the battalion had been motorised (SS-Pionier-Bataillon (mot)), and just prior to the outbreak of the Second World War consisted of three companies, a bridging column, a light engineer column and a band. In August 1939 the battalion was attached to the XVth Army Corps as the latter's Engineer Battalion (Korps-Pionier-Bataillon).

During the Polish campaign of September 1939 the battalion was placed under General Walter von Reichenau's 10th Army, with which it moved into Poland from Silesia and supported a battle group composed of members of the LAH.

Commanders: SS-Sturmbannführer Demme
SS-Sturmbannführer Blumberg

*According to P. H. Buss, the IIIrd Battalion of the 2nd SS Regiment (Stuba III/2) Dresden was to provide the cadre some time after October 5th, 1934.

1 -Der Chef der Heeresleitung, Geheime Kommandosache, Berlin, 18/12/1934

2 -Der Chef der Heeresleitung, Geheime Kommandosache, Berlin, 13/2/1935

SS-STURMBANN "N"
SS-KRADSCHÜTZEN-BATAILLON "N"

During August and September 1936, a cadre was formed at the Prittlbach training area for a new battalion of the SS-VT, SS Battalion "N" (SS-Sturmbann "N"). Officers and n.c.o.'s came from the LAH and "Deutschland" regiments, and the battalion was officially founded on October 1st, 1936. It was constituted as a horse-drawn infantry battalion (Infanterie-Bataillon (bespannt)) as follows:

Stab	staff
Nachrichten-Zug	signals platoon
Musikzug	band
1. Schützen-Kompanie	1st rifle company
2. Schützen-Kompanie	2nd rifle company
3. Schützen-Kompanie	3rd rifle company
Maschinengewehr-Kompanie	machine-gun company
Kraftfahr-Kolonne	motor transport column

The designation "N" stood for "Nuremberg" ("Nürnberg"), for although the unit was formed at Prittlbach, Nuremberg was chosen for its garrison town, and it was to provide a guard for the annual Party Day Rallies held there. Work was begun on a new barracks in the town for the battalion, although they were never in fact occupied by it.

"N" was an independent battalion placed under the Inspectorate of the SS-VT in Berlin, although for all tactical purposes it was placed under the command of the "Deutschland" regiment.

For the march into Austria on March 12th, 1938, the battalion was broken up and its men went to "Deutschland". They were regrouped, however, upon their return, and the battalion was strengthened by new recruits coming from Austria.

On the march into the Sudetenland on October 2nd, 1938, "N" was brought together and reinforced by an artillery battery.

On November 1st, 1938, Battalion "N", together with the IVth Battalion of "Deutschland", began to be converted into the Ist and IInd SS Motor-cycle Battalions. Both were placed under a regimental staff for special employment (Rgt.Stab z.b.V.) and SS Battalion "N" thus became SS Motor-cycle Battalion "N" (SS-Kradschützen-Bataillon "N").

Two different organisations for the battalion at this time have been found.

Stab	staff
Nachrichten-Zug	signals platoon
Musikzug	band
1. Kradschützen-Kompanie	1st motor-cycle company
2. Kradschützen-Kompanie	2nd motor-cycle company
3. Kradschützen-Kompanie	3rd motor-cycle company
schwere Kompanie	heavy company
le. Aufklärungs-Kolonne	light reconnaissance column

or:

Stab	staff
Nachrichten-Zug	signals platoon
1. Kradschützen-Kompanie*	1st motor-cycle company
2. Kradschützen-Kompanie*	2nd motor-cycle company
3. Kradschützen-Kompanie*	3rd motor-cycle company
schwere Kompanie**	heavy company
m. Granatwerfer-Zug	medium mortar platoon
Panzerabwehr-Zug	anti-tank platoon

In the summer of 1939 an anti-tank battalion was planned for the SS-VT and on July 10th "N" began to be incorporated into it. At this time "N" contained the following sub-units:

Stab	staff
Nachrichten-Zug	signals platoon
1. Kompanie	1st company

*armed with 18 light machine guns, 4 heavy machine guns and 3 light mortars.

**with 2 motorised light infantry gun platoons.

2. Kompanie	2nd company
3. Kompanie	3rd company
Instandsetzungs-Staffel	repair detachment

which were brought together at the Dachau training area to form the IInd Battalion of the SS Anti-Tank Unit based at Ellwangen (II. Bataillon Panzerabwehr-Abteilung/SS-VT). By this time "N" had ceased to exist and its traditions and battalion flag were passed on to the Anti-Tank Unit.

Commander: SS-Obersturmbannführer Deutsch

SS-REGIMENT z.b.V. Ellwangen

On November 1st, 1938, SS Battalion "N" and the IVth Battalion of the "Deutschland" Regiment began to be reorganised as the Ist and IInd SS Motor-cycle Battalions respectively. To control them, a regimental staff for special employment was created at Ellwangen and thus was created the SS Regiment for Special Employment (SS-Regiment z.b.V.).

The two component battalions underwent further changes in May and June 1939. The Ist was transformed into an anti-tank battalion (Panzerabwehrabteilung/SS-VT), while the IInd was broken up to produce two new units for reconnaissance and anti-aircraft defence (SS-Aufklärungs-Abteilung/SS-VT (mot) and SS-Fliegerabwehr-Maschinengewehr-Abteilung/SS-VT).

In the summer of 1939 the regiment consisted of its staff and two special employment battalions, which were stationed at Ellwangen and Dachau.

During the Polish campaign the regiment was motorised (SS-Standarte z.b.V. (mot)) and its regimental staff, together with its despatch-rider and signals platoons, maintained their peace-time garrison at Ellwangen.

Commander: SS-Obersturmbannführer Walter Krüger

AUFKLÄRUNGSABTEILUNG/SS-VT

The IVth Battalion of the "Deutschland" regiment was converted into the IInd SS Motor-cycle Battalion (SS-Kradschützen-Bataillon II) on November 1st, 1938, and in early June 1939, this in turn was broken up and two of its companies were organised as the Reconnaissance Battalion of the SS-VT (Aufklärungsabteilung/SS-VT). This battalion was organised as follows:

Stab	staff
Nachrichten-Zug	signals platoon
1. Kradschützen-Kompanie	1st motor-cycle company
2. Kradschützen-Kompanie	2nd motor-cycle company
Panzerspäh-Zug	armoured car platoon
Panzerabewehr-Zug	anti-tank platoon

and had its garrison at Ellwangen/Jagst.

On August 10th, 1939, the battalion joined Panzerdivision Kempf (Panzerverband Ostpreussen) and served in the Polish campaign under Major-General Werner Kempf.

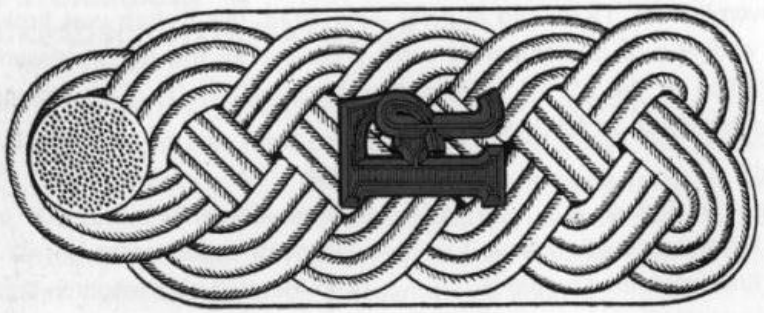
Commanders: SS-Sturmbannführer von Wangenheim
SS-Sturmbannführer Dr. Ing. Wim Brandt

FLIEGERABWEHR-MASCHINENGEWEHR-ABTEILUNG/SS-VT

The Anti-Aircraft Machine Gun Battalion of the SS-VT was formed on June 10th, 1939, from the 3rd and 4th Companies of the SS Motor-cycle Battalion "Ellwangen" (SS-Kradschützen-Bataillon "Ellwangen"). It consisted of a staff, two companies and a band, and was armed with 2cm and 3,7cm guns.

On July 15th, 1939, the 2nd company was sent under SS-Hauptsturmführer Fick to the Bergen training area and equipped, and was then placed under Panzerdivision Kempf with which it served during the Polish campaign of September 1939 under the tactical command of the "Deutschland" regiment. On November 1st, 1939, the unit was officially incorporated into the SS Special Purpose Division (SS-Verfügungs-Division).

Commander: SS-Sturmbannführer Ostendorff



Shoulder strap for officer with the rank of SS-Stubaf. in the AA Machine Gun Batt. SS-VT. The cypher is bronzed metal.

PANZERABWEHR-ABTEILUNG/SS-VT
PANZERJÄGER-ABTEILUNG/SS-VT

On June 10th, 1939, the SS Motor-cycle Battalion "N" at Dachau began to be reorganised as the Anti-Tank Battalion of the SS-VT (Panzerabwehr-Abteilung/SS-VT). This was composed of a staff, signals platoon, 3 companies and a repair detachment at the Prittlbach training area:

Stab	staff
Nachrichten-Zug	signals platoon
1. Kompanie	1st company
2. Kompanie	2nd company
3. Kompanie	3rd company
Instandsetzungs-Staffel	repair detachment

In June 1939 many of the other ranks of the unit went to form the Artillery Regiment of the SS-VT at Jüterbog, and in August the SS Anti-Tank Battalion was disbanded and most of its remaining personnel used to provide cadres for other SS units. However, from cadres of its staff, signals detachment and 2nd company the unit was reformed on September 20th, 1939, at Ellwangen.

Soon after the outbreak of the Second World War, on October 22nd, 1939, the battalion came under the command of the newly-formed SS Special Purpose Division (SS-Verfügungs-Division) in the Pilsen area, and on April 1st, 1940, it was renamed the "Panzerjäger-Abteilung/SS-VT".

Commanders: SS-Sturmbannführer Dr. Ing. Wim Brandt
SS-Hauptsturmführer Ax

SS-ARTILLERIE-STANDARTE/VT
SS-ARTILLERIE-REGIMENT/VT

An artillery regiment for the SS-VT was established in the summer of 1939 at the Münsterlager training area, and in June of that year some 2,000 men from the Leibstandarte, "Deutschland" and "Germania" regiments gathered at the Jüterbog training area (Hindenburglager). Jüterbog was a natural choice as it was the home of the Artillery School (Artillerie-Schule) and the Artillery Demonstration Regiment (Artillerie Lehr Regiment). According to Hausser the infantry gun companies (I.G.-Kompanien) were used as a nucleus.

In mid-June 1939 the regiment's organisation was as follows:

Rgt. Stab	regimental staff
I. Artillerie-Abteilung	Ist artillery battery
II. Artillerie-Abteilung	IInd artillery battery
III. Artillerie-Abteilung	IIIrd artillery battery
3 le Artilleriekolonnen	3 light artillery columns

The regiment, then designated as a motorised artillery regiment (SS-Artillerie-Standarte (mot)), joined Panzerdivision Kempf (Panzerverband Ostpreussen) on August 10th, 1939, and saw action in the Polish campaign of September. It then consisted of a regimental staff and three batteries of three troops each, armed with light field howitzers. The Regiment's peace-time administration was based at Berlin-Lichterfelde.

Commander: SS-Obersturmbannführer Hansen

INSPEKTION DER SS-FÜHRER-SCHULEN
INSPEKTION DER SS-JUNKERSCHULEN

Defence Minister Blomberg's decree of November 1st, 1934, provided for three officer cadet schools for the SS-VT. In 1935 Hitler ordered that future SS officers should be trained along military lines, and chose an ex-army Lieutenant-General to see to it. Paul Hausser founded the SS officer cadet school at Brunswick, and in the summer of 1935 was appointed inspector of SS officer Cadet schools. They were officially recognised as part of the SS-VT, and service in them counted as fulfillment of the German conscription obligations.

The schools at Tölz and Brunswick were modelled on those of the army, but more attention was given to political and ideological training, often at the expense of more traditional pursuits such as "square-bashing". Physical fitness was considered to be of paramount importance, and competitive sports and realistic manoeuvres, using live ammunition, produced a hardy, possibly reckless, breed of officer

Note: A third SS officer school is reported in 1935, which would probably have come under the control of the Inspectorate. This was the SS Medical Junker School, which was later renamed the SS Medical Academy.

SS-FÜHRERSCHULE TÖLZ
SS-JUNKERSCHULE TÖLZ

An SS leadership school was founded at Tölz in the Bavarian Alps by Reinhard Heydrich in 1932[1]. In early 1934 training for the armed SS

Cadets of the SS Officers School, Tölz, during a route march, 1935. This shows very well the first earth-grey field tunic, and it was unusual to see it worn with the brassard. Aufn. Folkerts.

was begun in the same town, and the first course was held in a former hotel from April 1st to December 23rd of that year. SS-Ostubaf Paul Lettow was instructed to form the first officer cadet school of the SS-VT, and he re-formed the old school that Heydrich had previously created. This was named the SS Officer School Tölz (SS-Führerschule Tölz), an was officially opened on October 1st, 1934. It was re-named "SS-Junkerschule Tölz" in the following spring, although the old title was still in use as late as mid-August, 1935.

Soon after the foundation of the school, work was begun, at state expense to build a new and spacious school complex at Bad Tölz, but it was not completed until 1941. Courses, however, were held there from 1934 onwards and the school officially moved into them on October 1st, 1937.[2]

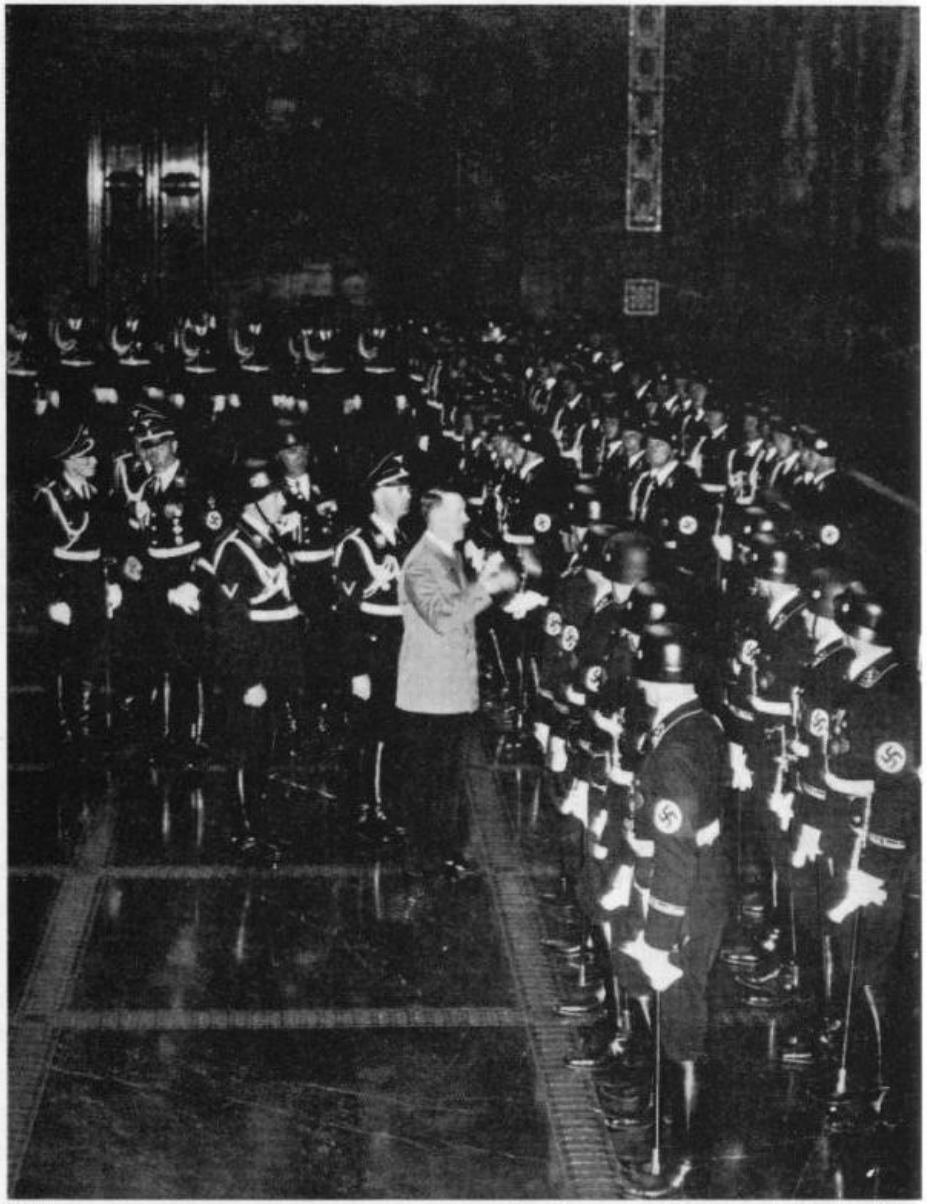
At first the number of cadets in each course was limited to about 110, but this number rose later to 240[3]. The school staff numbered some 80 officers and other ranks.

Commanders: SS-Obersturmbannführer Paul Lettow
SS-Standartenführer Voss
SS-Standartenführer Klingemann
SS-Standartenführer Dörffler-Schuband

1: Reitlinger, p. 76
2: Weidinger, "Division Das Reich", vol. 1, p. 110
3: do.

SS-FÜHRERSCHULE BRAUNSCHWEIG
SS-JUNKERSCHULE BRAUNSCHWEIG

Hausser was appointed the first commander of the second Officer Cadet School of the SS-VT at Brunswick (SS-Führerschule Braunschweig). This was renamed the SS Junker School Brunswick (SS-Junkerschule Braunschweig) on February 1st, 1935.



Hitler congratulates newly commissioned SS officers in the Mosaic Hall of the new Chancellery, 1939. Planet News.

The first course began in the spring of 1935 and together with those that followed, was based on those in army officer cadet schools. Courses lasted ten months and were made up of about 240 cadets. In the summer of 1935 Hausser was appointed Inspector of the SS Officer Cadet Schools (Inspekteur der SS-Junkerschulen).

Commanders: SS-Standartenführer Paul Hausser
SS-Oberführer Friedemann Götze
SS-Standartenführer Arno Altvater-Mackensen
SS-Sturmbannführer Lothar Debes
SS-Oberführer Werner Ballauff.

SS-ÄRZTLICHE AKADEMIE

Reference to an 'SS Medical Junker School' (SS-Ärztliche-Junkerschule) can be found as early as March 1935[1]. Other sources state, however, that the SS Medical Academy was established at Absenstrasse 6, Berlin NW 40. in 1937, and was moved to Graz in the autumn of 1939.

Commander: SS-Standartenführer Dr. Schlink.

1: "Der Freiwillige", March 1956, page 5.

VERWALTUNGSFÜHRERSCHULE DER SS
SS-FÜHRERSCHULE DES VERWALTUNGSDIENSTES

The Administration School of the SS was opened in the late summer of 1935, and was housed in the staff building at Dachau, which had been taken over from the IInd Battalion of the 1st SS Regiment.
Different courses were provided for members of the SS-VT and the General SS, and each lasted three months. In the first course there were some 53 trainees. The men came from the SS Districts (SS-Oberabschnitte) or SS companies and had to be at least 23 years of age and not over the rank of SS-Untersturmführer. They reported to the

An SS-Standartenoberjunker of the SS Administration School, 1938. Imperial War Museum.

Administration Office of the SS High Command in Munich (Reichsführung-SS Verwaltungsamt) and those wishing to attend the first course were obliged to report by May 3rd, 1935. The first course was led by SS-Sturmbannführer Bachl who was Leader of the Personnel Department. The appointments at the school were as follows:

Kursleiter	course leader
Referenten	experts
Abrichter	teacher
Kursteilnehmer	cadet

The school remained at Dachau until during the Second World War, when it was moved to Arolsen and renamed the SS Officer School for Economic Administrative Services (SS-Führerschule der Wirtschafts-Verwaltungsdienstes).

Commander: SS-Standartenführer Hans Baier

1 "Das schwarze Korps", No. 24., 14.8.1935., p. 3.

SS-VT.-BERUFSSCHULE ST. GEORGEN
SS-VT Vocational School St. Georgen

This vocational school provided members of the SS-VT with sufficient training to enable them to be adequately qualified for careers in civilian life. It was situated in Oberdonau in the XVIIth military district. With the introduction of the term 'Waffen-SS' the school became known as 'Berufsschule der Waffen-SS' and others were founded at Hamburg, Schleissheim near Munich, Mittweida, and possibly elsewhere.

PLANNED BUT UNFORMED UNITS

REITERREGIMENT (A.A.)
REITER-STURMBANN (AUFKLÄRUNGS-ABTEILUNG)/SS-VT
AUFKLÄRUNGS-STURMBANN

In 1934 a mounted regiment of 3 squadrons was planned for the SS and mentioned in an official letter of October 22nd. This proposed unit was reduced almost immediately to a mounted reconnaissance battalion (Reiter-Sturmbann (Aufklärungs-Abteilung)/SS-VT) which was to have been constituted as follows:

Stab	staff
Nachrichten-Zug	signals platoon
2 Reiterstürme	2 mounted companies
1 Radfahrsturm	1 cyclist company
1 s.M.G.-Zug	1 heavy machine-gun platoon

Its proposed location was reported variously to have been planned at Soltau, Gardelegen and Salzwedel. The unit is mentioned in various letters and documents of the time but was never in fact formed. An order dated February 2nd, 1935, cancelled entry of this unit from the order of battle of the SS-VT.

This unit, which never got beyond the planning stage, should not be confused with the later SS Reconnaissance Battalion of the SS-VT (SS-Aufklärungs-Abteilung/SS-VT) which is dealt with elsewhere in this book.

INFANTERIE-BATAILLON/SS-VT
Infantry Battalion SS-VT

Mention of an SS infantry battalion at Lünen near Dortmund appeared in an official document of October 1934, and it is believed that it was intended to have become an artillery battery. It was never formed, however.

ERSATZEINHEITEN DER SS-VT
Replacement Units of the SS-VT

The SS-VT was a military force, and like any other in the event of action it had to expect losses which would require replacements. Yet unlike others it originally had no replacement units, and whereas officers were trained at the cadet schools, other ranks had to gain training by service in the ranks. During this early period it was

planned that in the event of action SS-TV (SS-Totenkopfverbände - SS Death's Head Units - see Volume 4) personnel would be used as a replacement pool for the SS-VT.

In September 1938 orders were given for the creation of replacement units for the SS-VT under mobilization. Such units were under the command of the Reichführer - SS through the Inspectorate of the SS-VT. The following is a list of these units at that time, together with their garrison locations:

1 Infanterie-Ersatz-Sturmbann (mot) zu 3 Schützen-Stürme und 1 Maschinengewehr-Sturm für: Leibstandarte "Adolf Hitler" Standort: Berlin	1 motorised infantry replacement battalion of 3 rifle companies and 1 machine gun company for: Bodyguard Regiment "Adolf Hitler" Garrison: Berlin
1 Infanterie-Ersatz-Sturmbann zu 3 Schützen-Stürme und 1 Maschinengewehr-Sturm für: Standarte "Deutschland" Standort: München	1 infantry replacement battalion of 3 rifle companies and 1 machine gun company for: Regiment "Deutschland" Garrison: Munich
1 Infanterie-Ersatz-Sturmbann zu 3 Schützen-Stürme und 1 Maschinengewehr-Sturm für: Standarte "Germania" Standort: Hamburg	1 infantry replacement battalion of 3 rifle companies and 1 machine gun company for: Regiment "Germania" Garrison: Hamburg
1 Infanterie-Panzer-Abwehr-Ersatz-Sturm Standort: München	1 infantry anti-tank replacement company Garrison: Munich
1 Infanterie-Geschütz-Ersatz-Sturm Standort: Hamburg	1 infantry gun replacement company Garrison: Hamburg
1 Nachrichten-Ersatz-Sturm für: Nachrichten-Sturmbann und Truppen-Nachrichten-Züge Standort: Unna	1 signals replacement company for: Signals Battalion and unit signals platoons Garrison: Unna
1 Pionier-Ersatz-Sturm Standort: Dresden	1 engineer replacement company Garrison: Dresden

A list of these replacement units of a slightly later date demonstrates some differences, as follows:

Ersatz-Sturmbann LAH Standort: Berlin-Lichterfelde	replacement battalion LAH Garrison: Berlin-Lichterfelde
Ersatz-Sturmbann "Germania" Standort: Hamburg-Langenhorn	replacement battalion "Germania" Garrison: Hamburg-Langenhorn
Ersatzsturmbann Standort: Breslau	replacement battalion Garrison: Breslau
Totenkopf-Ersatz-Sturmbann "Deutschland" Standort: Arolsen	Death's Head replacement battalion "Deutschland" Garrison: Arolsen
Ersatz-Sturmbann Standort: Braunschweig	replacement battalion Garrison: Brunswick
Pionier-Ersatz-Bataillon Standort: Dresden	engineer replacement battalion Garrison: Dresden
Nachrichten-Ersatz-Abteilung Standort: Nürnberg	signals replacement battalion Garrison: Nuremberg

A replacement battalion for the "Der Führer" regiment was established just before the war, and at the end of 1939 was transferred from the Wien-Schönbrunn barracks to those at Graz-Wetzelsdorf.

SS-NACHSCHUBEINHEITEN
SS-Supply unit

The supply units of the SS-VT were placed under Panzer-Verband Ostpreussen for the Polish campaign of September 1939.

SS-DIENSTANZUG (SCHWARZ)
SS Black service uniform

Members of the first armed SS units had only one black service uniform for all duties, both in the barracks and in the field, as well as for parades and walking-out.[1]
This uniform was identical to that worn by the General SS, and as such has been described in detail, in volume 1 of this work.

FIG 1
SS Service tunic in black for all ranks.
SS Service tunic in earth-grey drill for all ranks.
SS Service tunic in earth-grey cloth for officers.
SS Service tunic in field-grey cloth for officers.*
The collar was edged in twisted cord, according to rank, see appendix II. At the beginning of the war this tunic was modified, by either having an extra button added, so that it could be worn closed, or by having a dark green stand and fall collar fitted.
*The colour of the field-grey cloth tended to be lighter than that of the army.
FIG 2
SS Greatcoat in black for all ranks.
SS Greatcoat in field-grey for officers.
SS Issue greatcoat in field-grey.
The collar was edged in twisted cord, according to rank.
The black and field-grey officers' greatcoat had a back belt as illustrated. Issue greatcoats had the same back belt as the army.
FIG 2b
Officers' field-grey greatcoats tended to have dark green collars. General officers (SS-Oberführer and above) had silver grey lapels, and were allowed to wear their greatcoats open.
FIG 3
SS breeches in black tricot for officers.
SS breeches in stone-grey tricot for officers.
Issue breeches were similar, but made of cloth, and were often reinforced with grey leather on the seat and inside leg.
FIG 4
SS long trousers in black with white piping for all ranks.
SS long trousers in earth-grey cloth for other ranks.
SS long trousers in stone-grey tricot with white piping for officers.
SS field trousers in field-grey cloth.
Field trousers had two slanting slit pockets in front, and a fob pocket, but no pockets at the back.

Far left
Three privates of the LAH in service dress (Kleine Dienstanzug), 1936. National Archives.

left
SS-Untersturmführer Karl Böhmer in winter walking-out dress.

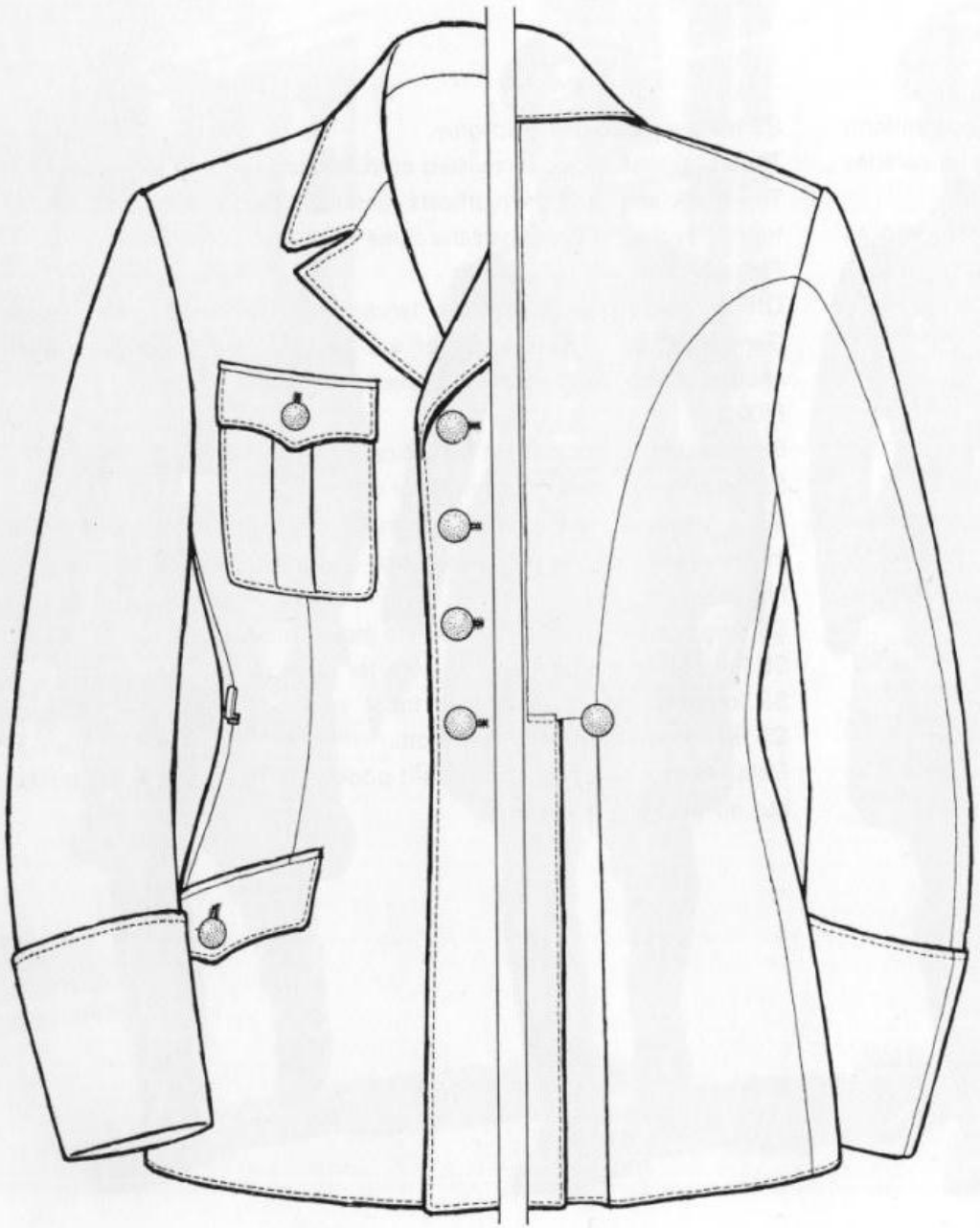


Fig. 1

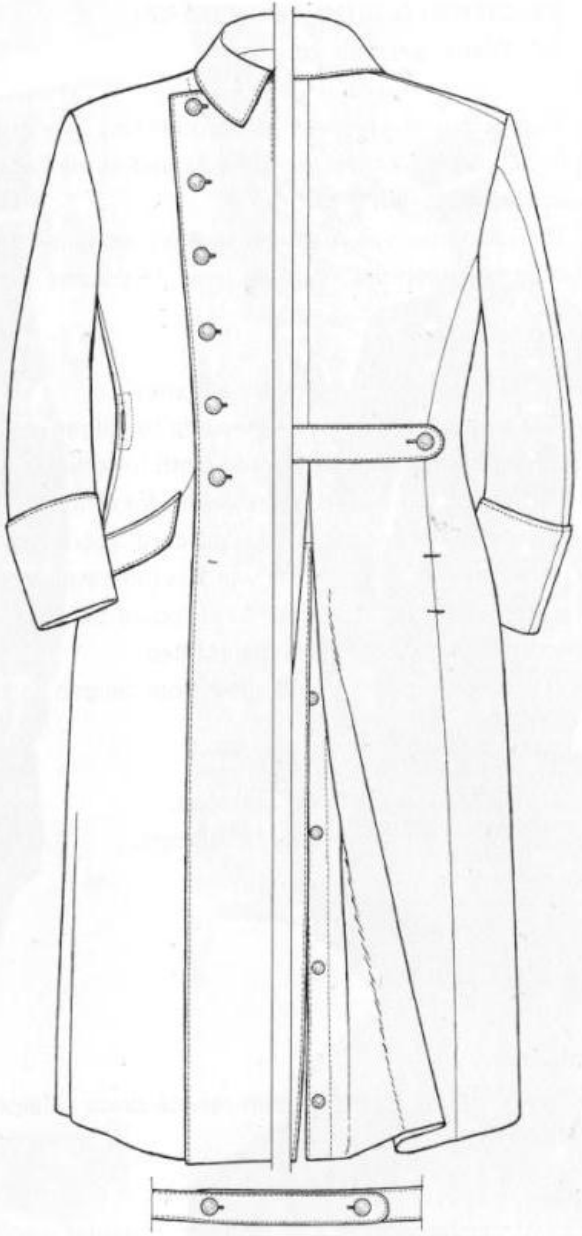


Fig. 2a
Fig. 2b

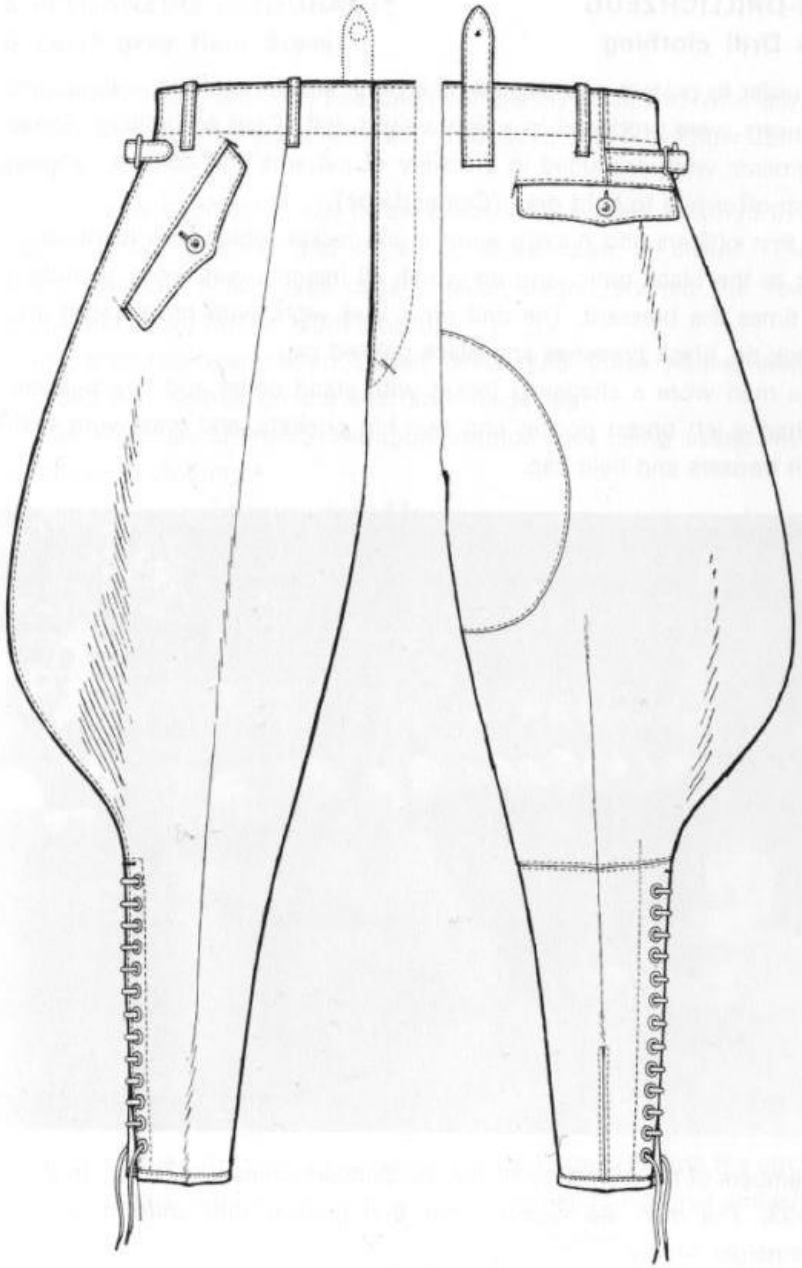


Fig. 3

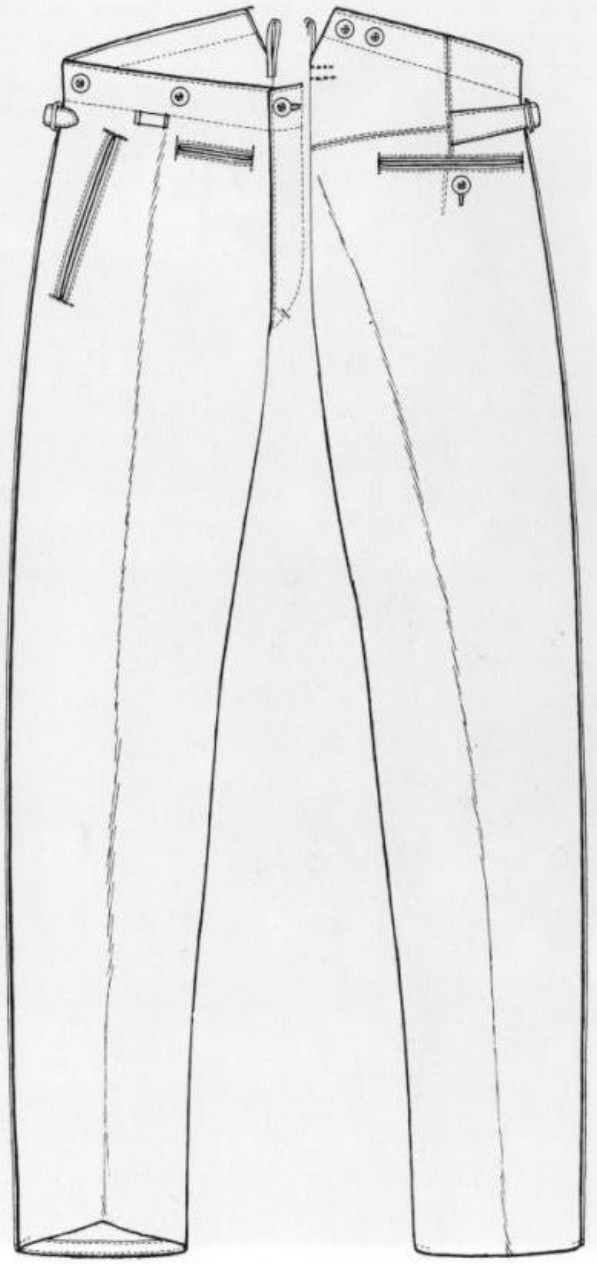


Fig. 4

SS-DRILLICHZEUG
SS Drill clothing

In order to protect and preserve the black service uniform, a tunic and trousers were produced in a lightweight drill (Drell or Drillich). These garments were produced in a variety of patterns and colours, ranging from off-white to light grey (Cementfarbe).

At first officers and n.c.o.'s wore a drill jacket which was identical in cut to the black tunic, and on which all insignia was worn, including at times the brassard. The drill tunic was worn with brown shirt and black tie, black breeches and black peaked cap.

The men wore a shapeless jacket with stand collar and five buttons. It had a left breast pocket and two hip pockets, and was worn with drill trousers and field cap.

Members of the 11th Coy of the SS-Sonderkommando Zossen in Essenfassen, 1933. The men are wearing the first pattern drill uniform and field cap. Schneider Archiv.

SS-FELDANZUG (ERDGRAU)*
SS Earth-grey field dress

By June 6th 1935, the LAH had been completely equipped with grey uniform[2], although it was not officially introduced until November 25th, 1935.[3]

The tunic was identical in cut to the black service tunic, but had five instead of four buttons, and could be worn open or closed. The officers' version, which was usually tailor made, retained the four buttons and could not be worn closed.

At first breeches were worn by all ranks, and those issued were reinforced with leather on the seat and inside leg.

By 1936, members of the SS-Verfügungstruppe were being issued with the following clothing.[4]

2 tunics, black.**
1 tunic, earth-grey.
1 tunic, earth-grey drill.
2 pairs breeches, black.
1 pair breeches, earth-grey.
1 pair breeches, earth-grey, drill.
2 pairs long trousers, black.
1 pair trousers, earth-grey.
1 pair trousers, earth-grey drill.
2 greatcoats, black.
1 greatcoat, earth-grey.

*The earth-grey (Erdgrau) uniform of the SS-VT should not be mistaken for the earth-brown (Erdbraun) guard uniform of the SS-Totenkopfverbände.

**One black uniform was kept in the man's locker, and used as a parade dress.

A member of the LAH with his locker in the background. Note the army pattern escutcheon on his helmet, and non-regulation national emblem on his peaked cap. Summer 1935(?) National Archives.

SS-FELDANZUG (FELDGRAU)
SS Field-grey battle dress

The earth-grey uniform began to be replaced in 1937 by a new field uniform. This was based on that in use in the army, but retained certain typically SS features. It continued to be worn until gradually replaced at the beginning of the war. The tunic was worn closed, but the top button could be worn undone between 1st April and 30th September when in the field, while being transported by train, and while travelling alone.

The fact that earth-grey clothing was still in use in 1941 is confirmed by an order which stated that all earth-grey tunics, trousers, greatcoats, field caps, drill and ski clothes were to be stripped of insignia and handed in for the eventual use of civilian workers in work camps.[5]

[1]Division Das Reich, vol. 1, p. 63.

[2]Die Waffen-SS, p. 22.

[3]SS-Befehlsblatt, 25.11.35.

[4]Taken from an undated document, which may possibly have come from a pay book.

[5]Verordnungsblatt der Waffen-SS, 1941, Ziff 121, p. 25.

Left

Gun crew of the LAH wearing the first earth-grey field tunic and breeches. The helmet is the 1916 model. The wide leather bandolier (Schleppriemen) is for manhandling the gun. Autumn 1935(?). National Archives.

Right

SS field blouse (1st pattern)

At first it was issued with 2 mm black and aluminium twisted cord around the collar, but this was soon discontinued.[1]

[1]Verordnungsblatt der Waffen-SS. 1940, Ziff Nr 155.

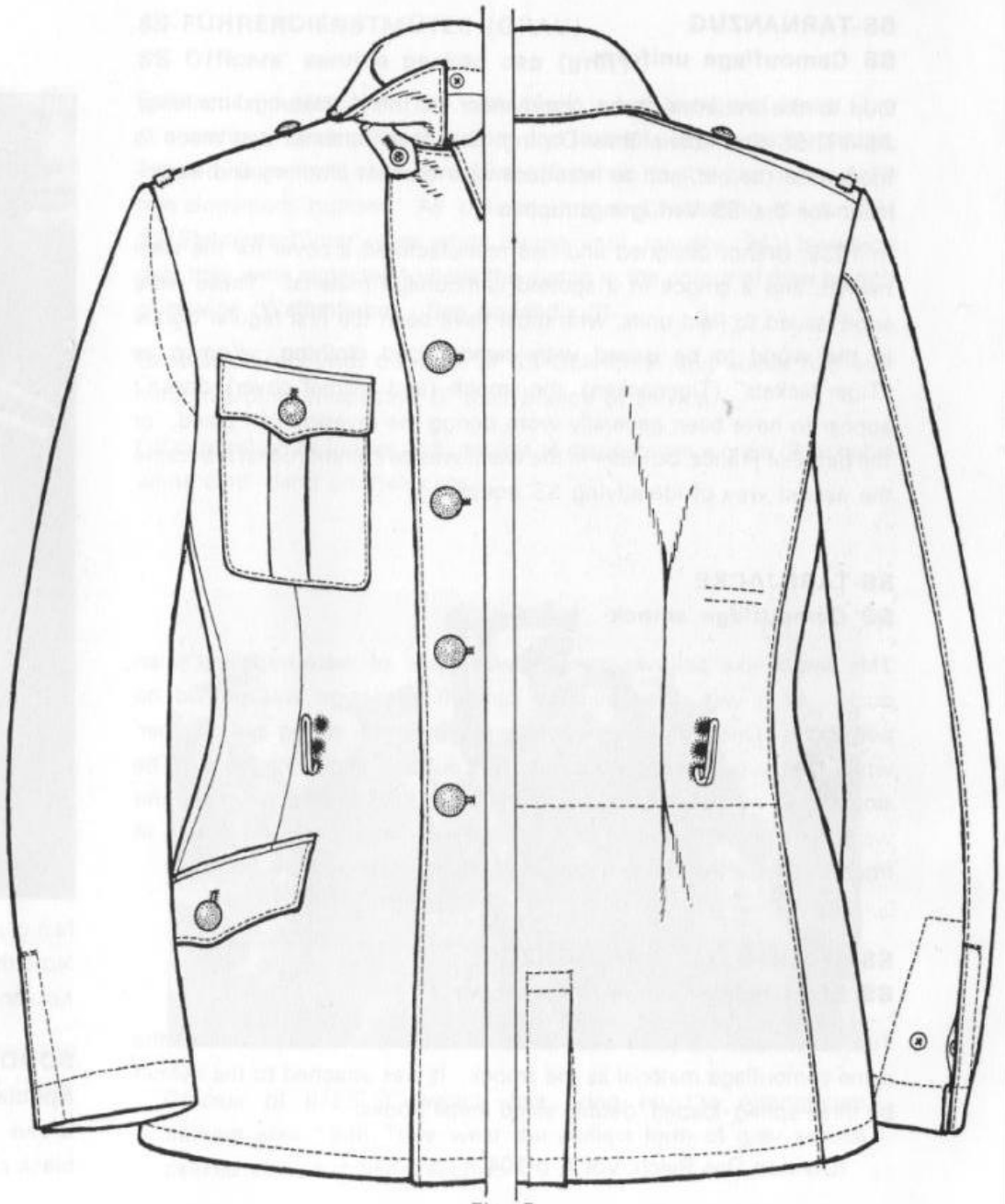


Fig. 5

SS-TARNANZUG
SS Camouflage uniform

Due to the initiative of the commander of the Auklärungsabteilung/ SS-VT, SS-Sturmbannführer Dr. Ing. Brandt, an attempt was made to modernise the old, and to introduce new combat clothing and equipment for the SS-Verfügungstruppen.[1]

In 1939, Brandt designed and had manufactured a cover for the steel helmet, and a smock in a spotted camouflage material. These were soon issued to field units, who must have been the first regular troops in the world to be issued with camouflaged clothing. Known as "Tiger jackets" (Tigerjacken), the smock (and helmet cover) doesn't appear to have been generally worn during the invasion of Poland, or the battle of France, but later in the war it was so common, that it became the easiest way of identifying SS troops.

SS-TARNJACKE
SS Camouflage smock

This smock-like pullover garment was made of water-repellent linen duck. As it was reversible, the camouflage design was printed on both sides. One side was predominently green for spring and summer, while the reverse was grey brown for autumn and winter use. The smock had no collar, and was gathered around the neck, wrists and waist with elastic. It had two vertical openings above the waist, in front, to enable the wearer to reach his tunic pockets.

SS-STAHLHELM TARNÜBERZUG
SS Steel helmet camouflage cover

The cover was cut to fit over the steel helmet, and was made of the same camouflage material as the smock. It was attached to the helmet by three spring-loaded, double sided metal hooks.

[1]Division Das Reich, Vol 1, p 104.

N.c.o. and men of the Armoured Car Platoon of Regiment "Germania", 1939. Note the large machine-embroidered badges on the beret. Bundesarchiv Koblenz.

SONDERBEKLEIDUNG FÜR PANZER EINHEITEN
Special clothing for armoured units

Crews of enclosed armoured vehicles were issued with the special black clothing which consisted of a beret, shirt, tie, jacket and trousers.

SCHUTZMÜTZE
Crash helmet
A padded black cloth cap with four rubber ventilation holes, and black fabric lining. Over the basic cap was worn a large removable black beret, which was usually worn pulled to the back. In front was worn a white or silver grey silk machine embroidered national emblem, and the death's head.

FELDJACKE (SCHUTZJACKE)
Field jacket
Short double breasted black cloth jacket, which could be worn open or closed. It was fastened in front by four large, and three small black plastic buttons. The cuffs were slit at the back, and could be fastened either tightly or loosely around the wrist. The first pattern had pink piping around the collar and collar patches, but this practice was soon discontinued.

FELDHOSE (ÜBERFALLHOSE)
Field trousers
Long black cloth trousers with two slanting side pockets with buttoned flaps, and a fob pocket. The trousers were gathered at the ankle, and were worn folded down over the top of the marching or ankle boot.

TRIKOTHEMD
Tricot shirt
Brown shirt without pockets.

SCHWARZER SCHLIPS
Black tie

SS-KOPFBEDECKNUNG
SS Headdress
Until the introduction of grey head-dress in 1935-6, black peaked and field caps were worn with grey uniform. For details of black head-dress see volume 1, pages 15 and 16.

The same insignia was worn on grey, as on black head/dress.

SS-FÜHRERDIENSTMÜTZE (GRAU)
SS Officers' service peaked cap (grey)
Earth or field-grey cloth cap with black velvet band and black fibre (Vulkanfiber) peak. Patent leather and leather peaks were forbidden. Twisted aluminium chin cords were fastened to the cap by two 13 mm aluminium buttons. All officers up to and including the rank of SS-Standartenführer wore white piping until January 1941, by which date they were expected to have the piping in the colour of their branch of service (Waffenfarbe). See Appendix III.

General officers with the rank of SS-Oberführer and above had aluminium piping irrespective of their branch of service.

Officers acting as judges and umpires at manoeuvres wore a detachable white cloth band on their caps.

Officers of II/SS"D" watch live firing on the Altengraben training area, 1936. They wear the earliest form of grey service peaked cap, Schneider Archiv.

SS-FELDMÜTZEN
SS Field caps

The first pattern field cap, which was worn by members of the SS-Sonderkommando Zossen, was identical in cut to the field cap (Krätzen) of the Imperial German Army. It was made of black cloth, and was circular in cut, and had either two or three white pipings. It was worn with the same metal badges as on the peaked cap.

In 1934 an earth-grey boat-shaped field cap (Schiffchen) was introduced[2] for wear with the drill uniform. The cut of the cap remained unaltered until its replacement in 1940, but its colour and badges were changed a number of times.

The first caps were probably issued with a plain white metal button in front, and the early version of the national emblem, machine embroidered in white silk, on an earth-grey cloth triangle, on the left side of the cap. Soon after its introduction, the button was changed to that with the death's head on it[3].

In 1936, the cap began to be issued in black cloth for wear with the black uniform.

In 1937, the cap began to be issued in field-grey cloth for wear with the field-grey field uniform. At the same time the national emblem was produced in a new form. This was the SS version, machine embroidered in white silk on a black cloth triangle. This badge was worn on both the black and field-grey caps.

In 1939, following the army practice, an inverted chevron (Soutache) in the colour of the branch of service (Waffenfarbe) began to be worn, but not as generally as in the army.

After the beginning of the war, the death's head button was painted field-grey.

In February, 1938, a field-cap was officially introduced for non-commissioned officers[4]. It was field-grey with black cloth band and white piping. The peak was made of the same cloth as the top of the cap, and it was worn without a chin strap. At first only metal, but later both metal and cloth badges were worn on this cap. The order introducing the cap, emphasised the fact that it was a field, and not a peaked cap, and should not be worn on occasions when a peaked cap was proscribed.

During the war, a number of officers appear to have worn this cap in preference to any other.

Until the introduction in 1940, of a regulation officers' field cap, they wore the 1938 model army officers' field cap with a metal or woven death's head in place of the national cockade[5].

[1]SS-Befehlsblatt, 25.4.38, Ziff 12, p. 9.
[2]Mitteilungsblatt der RZM, Nr. 29, 15.12.34, p. 13.
[3]Mitteilungsblatt der RZM, Nr. 29, 15.12.34, p. 13.
[4]SS-Befehlsblatt, 25.2.38, Ziff 15, p. 8.
[5]See for example SS-Gruppenführer Eicke's field cap on page 8 of the book "Damals".

SS-STAHLHELME
SS Steel helmets

A member of SS-Standante I on guard outside the Feldherrnhalle in Munich, 1934 (?). He wears the 1916 model steel helmet with unusual chin strap.

Left
Soldiers of SS-Sonderkommando Zossen wearing a "Krätzen", and the black service peaked cap. The cord on his collar and collar patches is the pre-October, 1934, pattern. National Archives.

The Politische Bereitschaften were at first issued with the 1916 model steel helmet, which had been painted black. Later a special version of the 1916 model was produced by the RZM. It was different in shape, and much lighter than its predecessor, and was obviously designed for internal security use only. Its wide leather chin strap was fastened by a single pronged, black metal buckle. On the inside of the rim, it was stamped with both RZM and SS issue marks.

The black service peaked cap being worn by an n.c.o., and a soldier wearing the 1916 model steel helmet with modified chin strap and army pattern escutcheon. National Archives.

The 1916 model black steel helmet was worn with grey uniform[6], but the LAH, and possibly other units, were issued with it in field- grey finish as well.

The 1935 model in black for wear with the black uniform, and field-grey for wear with field uniform, began to be issued in 1936, but replacement and guard units (Wach-Einheiten) were still wearing the old model, when it was ordered, in March 1941, that they should be sent to the penitentiary in Straubing, Bavaria, where they were probably dismantled for melting down[7].

The 1935 model was worn with the final pattern of escutcheons until 1940, when for reasons of camouflage the red, white and black shield was ordered to be removed[8].

[6]See for example picture on page 23.

[7]Wirtschafts-und Verwaltungsanordnungen (W.V.A.) 1941, Ziff 159.

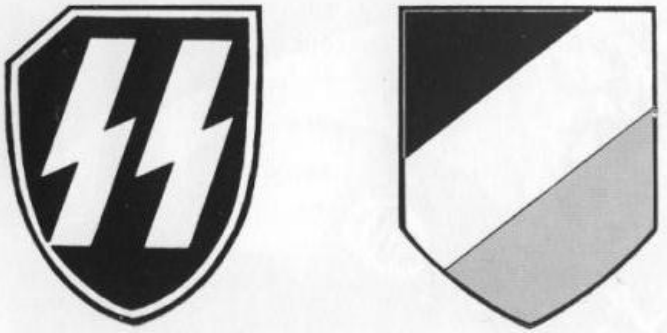
[8]VM-SS, 1940, Nr. 136/85, pp. 65/42.

WAPPENSCHILDER
Escutcheons

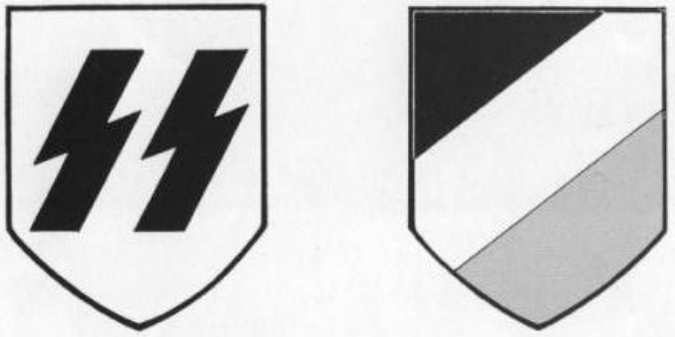
The LAH at first wore the SS runes in silver on a black shield, and then the SS runes in black on a silver shield, on the right, and the diagonal shield in the Reich's colours on the left side. Other units wore the SS runes in white, within a double white circle on the right, and a swastika in white outline on the left side.

Late in 1935 all these escutcheons were changed to the final pattern which was introduced for the whole SS.

Steel helmets were often issued, and worn, without escutcheons.

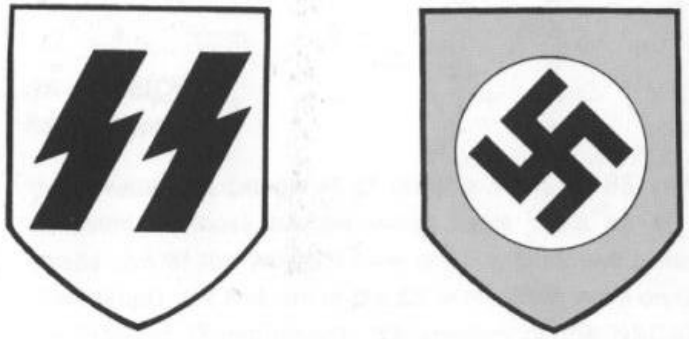


1st pattern steel helmet escutcheons for the LAH. The left hand side escutcheons were in black/white/red.



2nd pattern steel helmet escutcheons for the LAH.

1st pattern steel helmet escutcheons for all other SS-VT units.



Final pattern steel helmet escutcheons for the whole SS. The left hand side escutcheon was in black and white on a red ground outlined black.

SS-FUSSBEKLEIDUNG
SS Footwear

Marching boots, long.
Infantry boots, half length.*
Riding boots.
Lace-up boots.
Walking-out boots.
Sports shoes.
House shoes.
Socks.
Foot cloths.
Knee pads.

SS-SPOREN
SS spurs

Strap-on spurs.
Screw-on spurs.

SS-HANDBEKLEIDUNG
SS Gloves

Gloves, wool, grey-green.
Gloves, cotton, white.
Gloves, leather, grey.

SS-UNTERKLEIDUNG
SS Underwear

Brown shirt, tricot.
Brown shirt, cotton.
Underpants.
Vest.
Night shirt.
Tie, black.
Pullover.
Braces, grey (1 pair per year).

ORDERS OF DRESS (UNIFORM)

KEY
— = Obligatory
O = Optional
W = Winter
S = Summer (1st April—30th September)
Nos = Footnotes

		Steel helmet, black	Peaked cap, black	Peaked cap, white top	Field cap, earth-grey	Field cap, black	Service tunic, black	Undress tunic, white	Drill jacket, grey	Great coat, black	Raincoat, black	Guard coat, black or sheepskin	Shirt, brown / Black tie	Shirt, white /	Breeches, black	Drill trousers, grey	Long trousers, black with white piping	Marching boots, high	Riding boots (1)	Ankle boots	Ankle boots (undress) (2)	Gloves, grey suede	Gloves, white	Gloves, black wool	Steel helmet, grey	Peaked cap, grey	Field cap, grey	Service tunic, grey	Great coat, grey	Raincoat, grey	Guard coat, grey or sheepskin	Breeches, grey	Breeches, stone-grey	Long trousers, grey	Long trousers, stone-grey with white piping	Riding boots (1)	Marching boots, high	Ankle boots	Ankle boots (undress) (2)	Gloves, grey suede	Gloves, grey wool	Aiguillette	Adjutants' cord	Medals (Grosse Ordenschnalle)	Medal ribbons (Kleine Ordenschnalle)	Field blouse, field-grey	Field trousers, field-grey	Breeches, field-grey	*Marching boots, infantry pattern*
Battle dress	officers	—	O						—	W				—	—				—			—			—	O		—	W	O		—	O		—					6		—	O		O	
(Feldanzug)	n.c.o's	—	O						—	W				—	—			—				—			—		—	—	W			—			—				—			—	—		/
	men	—			—				—	W				—		—				—		—		W	—		—	—	W			—			—				W			—	—		/
Service dress	officers		—				—			W	O			—	—				—			—				—		—	W	O			—			—					6		—	O		O	
(Dienstanzug)	n.c.o's		—		—		—			W				—	—			—				—				—	O	—	W			—			—				—			—	—		/
	men		—		—	O	—			W				—	—			—						W			—	—	W			—			—				W			—	—		/
Guard dress	officers	—	O				—			W				—	—				—			—			—	O			W	O		—			—					6		—	O		O	
(Wachanzug)	n.c.o's	—	O		—		—			W				—	—			—				—			—		O		W			—			—				—			—	—		/
	men	—				O	—			W		O		—	—			—						W	—			—	W			—			—				W			—	—		/
Informal service dress	officers		—	S			—	S		W	O			—	O		—		O		—	—							W	O				—	O		—	—		6		—				
(Kleine Dienstanzug)	n.c.o's		—				—			W				—	O		—	O		—		—							W				—		O	—	—			—					
Parade dress 3	officers	4	4				—			W			—		—				—				—			—	O		—	W		—		—				—			6	—				
(Paradeanzug)	n.c.o's	4	4				—			W			—		—			—					—			—	O		—	W			—					—			—					
	men	4	4				—			W			—		—			—					—	W			—	—	W			—					—		S	W		—		—	—		/
Reporting dress	officers		—				—			W				—		—				—	—							—	W					—			—	—		6		—				
(Meldeanzug)	n.c.o's		—				—			W				—		—				—	—							—	W					—			—	—				—				
	men		—				—			W				—		—			—					W				—	W					—			—			W		—				
Walking-out dress	officers		—	S			—	S		W	O			—		—				—	—							—	W	O				—			—	—				—				
(Ausgehanzug)	n.c.o's		—				—			W				—		—				—	—							—	W					—			—					—				
	men		—				—			W				—		—			—					W			O	—	W					—			—			W		—				

1. Riding boots were worn with spurs by all ranks in mounted units, and by all officers with rank of Stubaf. and above.
2. Undress ankle boots were privately purchased and were usually elastic sided. These boots could be worn with clip-on spurs.
3. After the introduction of field-grey, the black uniform was worn as a parade and undress uniform.
4. Steel helmets were worn by all ranks on parade. Peaked caps could be worn by those who were not actually in the line.
5. Mounted personnel wore grey suede or leather gloves with all orders of dress.
6. Adjutants wore adjutants' cords instead of the officers' aiguillette.

1st pattern machine-embroidered national emblem for the sleeve.

2nd pattern machine-embroidered national emblem for the sleeve.

SS-ABZEICHEN
SS Insignia

There were two categories of insignia worn on SS uniform. The first consisted of those badges which were worn on all SS uniforms, irrespective of the wearer's rank or unit. These were the death's head (Totenkopf), the emblem of the SS, which was worn on the head-dress, the brassard (Kampfbinde), the emblem of the NSDAP, which was worn on the upper left arm, and the national emblem (Hoheitsabzeichen), which was worn on the head-dress and left sleeve.
The second category identified the rank, unit or qualification of the wearer, and consisted of collar patches (Kragenspiegeln), shoulder straps (Schulterstücke), armband (Ärmelstreifen), which was worn on the left cuff, and the arm-badge (Ärmelabzeichen), which was worn on the lower left sleeve.

HOHEITSABZEICHEN
National emblem

Even before the official order of March 7th, 1936[1], established the swastika within a wreath of oak leaves, surmounted by an eagle with outstretched wings as the emblem of the Third Reich, the eagle and swastika had been worn on the uniforms of the NSDAP and armed forces. Only members of the armed forces and affiliated organisations (such as the NSFK) were allowed by law to wear the national emblem on the right breast.[2]

In the SS, the national emblem had been worn on the cap since 1929, and in a modified form on the belt buckle since 1932. The first national emblem for wear on the cap was stamped in tin and had a black swastika. It was worn not only by the SS, but by nearly every party organisation. In 1936 an SS version was introduced which remained unaltered until the end of the war.

It was not until 1936 that an official SS version of the national emblem was introduced for wear on the arm[3], but Sepp Dietrich was already wearing one in July 1935.[4]

Prior to 1936, some officers wore the army pattern, as no other was readily available, but it is surprising that certain officers continued to do so, both on the cap and sleeve, until the end of the war. The 1936 pattern was modified shortly after its introduction to the SS version, which remained unchanged until the end.

The SS version of the national emblem was machine embroidered in white or silver-grey silk on a black badge cloth base. In fact, many shades of silk thread were used, added to which age and wear were responsible for discolouration and fading. Officers and senior n.c.o.'s were entitled to wear hand-embroidered emblems.

By 1939 national emblems were already being machine woven in a continuous strip, in aluminium wire for officers and grey or white silk for men.[5]

SS-TOTENKOPF
SS Death's Head

When the death's head was adopted by the Stosstrupp Hitler in 1923, it already had a long history as a military symbol.

The first SS model was stamped in tin, and was worn until 1934, when it was replaced by a new model. The old continued to be worn concurrently with the new for a number of years. The new model was at first also made of tin, but later of aluminium[6].

The first cloth version was made for the black beret of crews of enclosed armoured vehicles, and was machine embroidered in silver-grey silk.

In 1939 death's heads began to be machine woven in a continuous strip, in aluminium wire for officers, and grey or white silk for men[7].

SS-KRAGENSPIEGEL
SS Collar patches

Collar patches were made of black cloth for all ranks up to and including SS-Obersturmbannführer, and black velvet for all officers with the rank of SS-Standartenführer and above. Stars and braid were matt aluminium, and collar patches were edged in twisted cord according to rank. See Appendix II.

In September 1934 it was ordered that the emblems on the collar patches of all personnel with the rank of SS applicant (SS-Bewerber) and above in the Politische Bereitschaften, should be embroidered in aluminium wire. See Appendix II.

All collar patches could be supplied by the RZM with screw backs, so they could be fitted to the collar, and easily removed for cleaning.

Collar patches continued to be embroidered in aluminium wire for wear on the black uniform, but for the field blouse and field-grey overcoat, collar patches with silver-grey machine embroidered emblems were introduced.

The first SS runes, probably introduced in 1932, were very small, but by 1936 they had reached their final form, which was the same for both officers and men.

With the advent of machine embroidered emblems, a new pattern of SS runes was designed, and again changed in 1939.

The various letters and numerals which appeared on the collar patch were at first the same size or even larger than the SS runes, but these too, were reduced and redesigned twice.

[1]Reichsgesetzblatt, Nr. 21, 11.3.36, p. 39.
[2]Hettler, Uniformen der Deutschen Wehrmacht, p. 7.
[3]Mitteillungsblatt der RZM, Nr. 11, 23.5.36, p. 7.
[4]Das Schwarze Korps, Nr. 20, 17.7.35, p. 4.
[5]SS-Preisliste, April 1939, p. 5.
[6]Mitteilungsblatt der RZM, Nr. 25, 17.11.34, p. 6.
[7]SS-Preisliste, April 1939, p. 5.

By order of the RF-SS in May 1940, all collar patches with runes and numerals or letters were to be changed for those with just the SS runes. At the same time the 2 mm. black and aluminium cord on collars and collar patches was abolished[1].

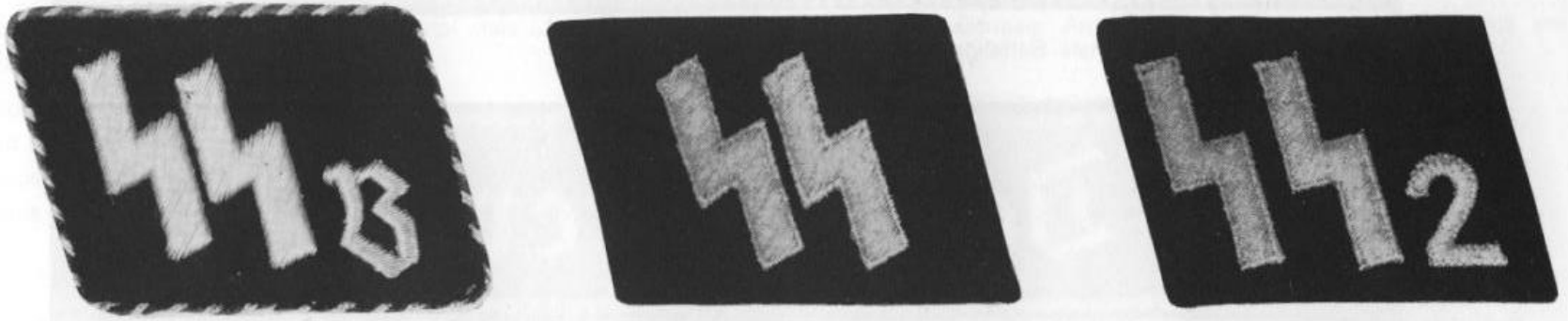
[1]Verordnungsblatt der Waffen-SS, 15.8.1940, Ziff Nr. 155.

SS-SCHULTERSTÜCKE
SS Shoulder straps

Officers and men at first wore one and later two General SS shoulder cords on the earth-grey tunic. See volume 1, pages 21 and 26.
Other ranks were the first to receive army pattern shoulder straps (Schulterklappen), while commissioned ranks continued to wear the General SS pattern. It was not until 1939 however, that n.c.o.'s braid began to be worn on the tunic collar, and together with aluminium stars, on the shoulder straps.
The first army pattern shoulder straps were made of black cloth with rounded ends, and were edged in black and aluminium cord. In the centre of each shoulder strap was a 3.5 cm high regimental cypher (Namenzüge), which was machine embroidered in silver-grey silk thread. This pattern of shoulder strap was usually sewn into the top of the sleeve.

The second pattern was simpler in design, and probably was intended to be worn with the field blouse. It was made of black cloth with pointed ends, and in the centre was a 3 cm high regimental cypher (Namenzüge), which was machine embroidered in silver-grey silk thread. This pattern had a tongue which was passed through a loop on the shoulder and fastened to the tunic by means of a button. This button sometimes bore the number of the company in arabic numerals.
At the beginning of the war these cyphers were often covered with the strip of field-grey cloth, for security purposes.
Starting in late 1937, black cloth shoulder straps with rounded ends and piping in the branch of service, began to be issued to other ranks, and by September 1940, sufficient stocks were available to equip training units (Ersatz-Einheiten) with them[1].
Simultaneously army pattern officers' shoulder straps begun to be worn. These were identical to those of the army, but at first only had a white cloth underlay, which was later changed to the colour of the branch of service. See Appendix III.
Regimental cyphers (Namenzüge) were in bronzed metal for officers, and aluminium for n c o 's, the latter were different in design and smaller in size.

[1]Verordnungsblatt der Waffen-SS, Nr. 8, 5.9.40, Ziff 46.



1st, 2nd and 3rd pattern SS runes. The 1st is hand embroidered, and the 2nd and 3rd are machine embroidered. Mollo Collection.

SS-ÄRMELSTREIFEN
SS Armbands

The armband became one of the most distinctive features of the SS uniform, and apart from identifying the unit of the wearer, was partly responsible for the remarkable esprit de corps of the SS.
The armband could be worn by all ranks, usually with the exception of recruits, on the left cuff of the tunic and overcoat. The band was made from a 28mm wide black woven tape with a 2mm wide aluminium wire stripe along the top and bottom edges*. At first all ranks had the name or title of the unit hand embroidered in aluminium wire. See

Officers' armband, Regiment "Germania". Hand-embroidered type.

Other ranks' armband, Signals Battalion, machine-embroidered type.

Officers' armband, Regiment "Der Führer". Woven type.

appendix II, but in 1936 armbands for other ranks began to be manufactured with the inscription machine embroidered in silver-grey silk.[1] In 1939/40 armbands for officers with aluminium wire (or white silk) stripes and aluminium wire inscription, began to be machine woven in a continuous band.

The average length of an armband, when issued, was 49 cms, and other ranks were issued with four, which were expected to last nine months.

*Armbands were actually produced in a number of different widths.

[1]Mitteilungsblatt der RZM., Nr. 6, 14.3.36. p 97.

SS-DIENSTGRADABZEICHEN
SS Badges of rank

Members of the Politische Bereitschaften and SS-Verfügungstruppen had exactly the same badges of rank as the General SS. See volume 1. page 20.

In 1937/38 all ranks began wearing army badges of rank on the shoulder and upper left sleeve.[1]

Officers' shoulder straps were identical to those of the army, and even the stars at first were in gilt metal, although they were supposed to have been in bronzed (Brüniert) metal.[2]

General officers had 26 mm silvered metal stars and n.c.o.'s, 20 mm aluminium stars.

Badges for non-commissioned ranks were introduced at the same time, and consisted of 8 mm aluminium braid on the tunic collar, shoulder straps and arm chevrons, and 20 mm aluminium stars on the shoulder straps.

[1]Paul Hausser, Soldaten wie andere auch., p 21.

[2]SS der NSDAP Kleiderkasse Katalog. Gültig ab 1. November 1940, p 10.

SS-DIENSTGRADE*
SS Ranks

I. SS-Männer (SS men)	SS-Bewerber**
	SS-Staffelanwärter***
	1 SS-Staffelmann
	2 SS-Sturmmann
	3 SS-Rottenführer
II. SS-Unterführer (SS n.c.o.'s)	4 SS-Unterscharführer
	5 SS-Scharführer
	6 SS-Oberscharführer
	7 SS-Hauptscharführer
	SS-Stabsscharführer
	8 SS-Sturmscharführer
III. SS-Führer (SS officers)	9 SS-Untersturmführer
	10 SS-Obersturmführer
	11 SS-Hauptsturmführer
	12 SS-Sturmbannführer
	13 SS-Obersturmbannführer
	14 SS-Standartenführer
IV. Höhere SS-Führer (SS senior officers)	15 SS-Oberführer
	16 SS-Brigadeführer
	17 SS-Gruppenführer
	18 SS-Obergruppenführer

*For the German, American and British army equivalents see appendix IV.

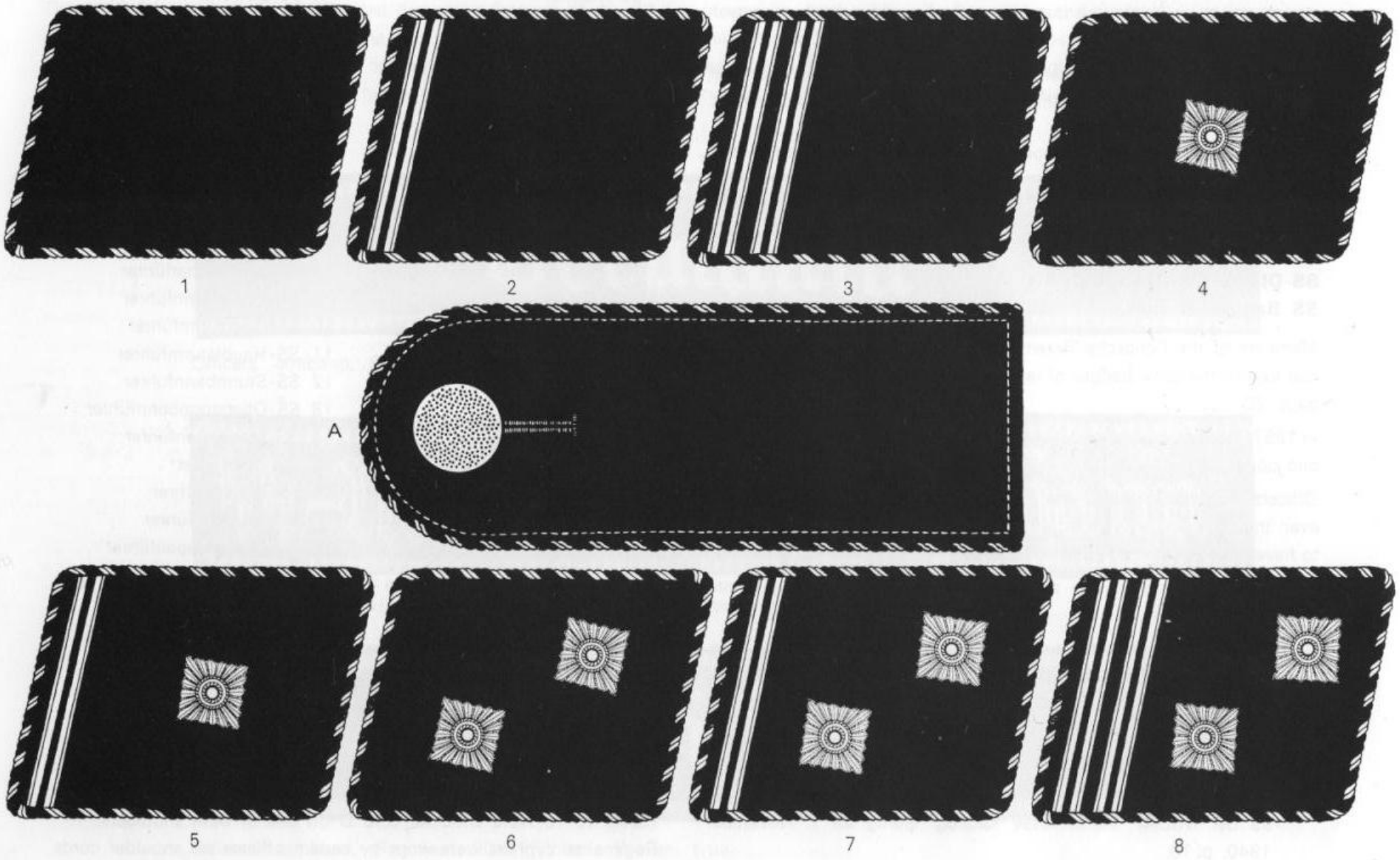
**Wore no collar patches

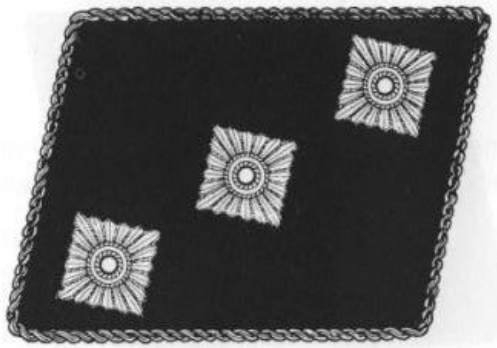
***Wore plain right collar patch.

PLATE 1 (pages 48-50)

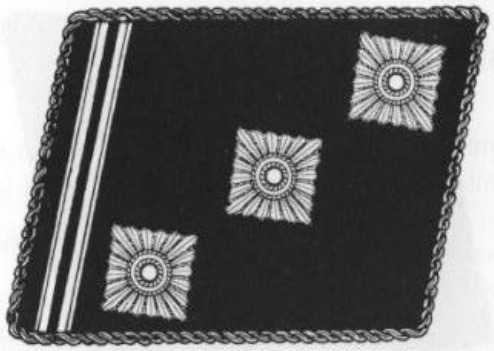
Ranks 1-8 wore shoulder cord A on one or both shoulders.
Ranks 9-11 wore shoulder cord B on one or both shoulders.
Ranks 12-14 wore shoulder cord C on one or both shoulders.
Ranks 15-18 wore shoulder cord D on one or both shoulders.
Regimental cyphers were worn by certain officers on shoulder cords.

PLATE 1

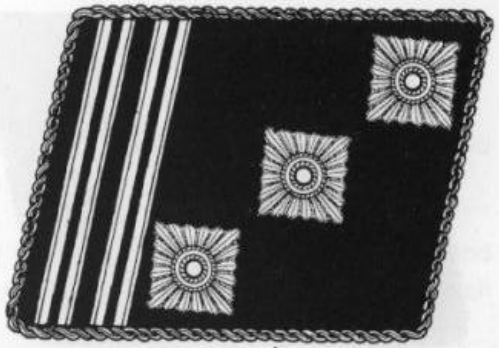




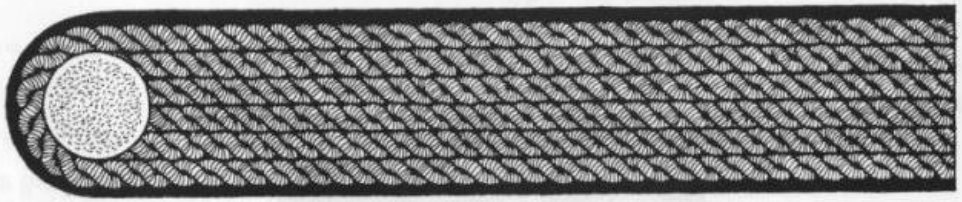
9



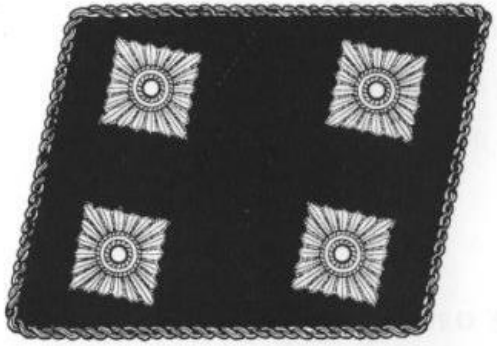
10



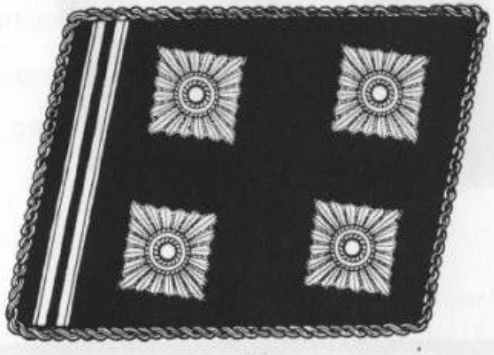
11



B



12



13

14

C

15

16

17

18

D

In October 1934, new rank titles were announced for potential officers awaiting, or undergoing training at the officer's school at Bad Tölz.

SS-Führeranwärter for potential officers awaiting training.

SS-Standartenjunker for cadets undergoing training.

SS-Fähnrich* for cadets promoted by academy commandant.

SS-Oberfähnrich** for cadets on completion of training.

In March 1935.2., the titles were changed as follows:—

SS-Führeranwärter for potential officers awaiting training.

SS-Junker for cadets undergoing training.

SS-Standartenjunker* for cadets promoted by academy commandant.

SS-Standartenoberjunker*** for cadets on completion of training.

*Wore the same badges of rank as an SS-Scharführer.

**Wore the same badges of rank as an SS-Hauptscharführer.

***Wore aluminium twisted cord on the collar patches.

INSIGNIA OF THE FIRST ARMED SS UNITS

The first armed SS units were formed by a number of SS Districts (SS-Oberabschnitte), who were responsible for training, uniform and use. The personnel were mostly members of the General SS, and were technically members of the SS District or Sub-district staff, and as such wore either a plain right collar patch or the number of the Sub-district in roman numerals, with the exception of the LAH who wore the SS runes.

INSIGNIA AS ORDERED BY THE R.F.S.S. FOR THE POLITISCHE BEREITSCHAFTEN

"Following the order of May 5th, 1934, new insignia has been laid down for the Politische Bereitschaften.[1]

1. The Leibstandarte "Adolf Hitler" retains its own insignia (armband with the inscription Adolf Hitler, collar patch; right collar patch with SS runes).

2. The other Politische Bereitschaften will have from June 1st the following insignia: Armband without inscription, but with the embroidered company number. On the right collar patch the runes and regimental number as ordered by the R.F.S.S. which, for the existing Politische Bereitschaften, are as follows:*

   SS District South: Regiment No. 1.
   SS District South West: Regiment No. 2.
   SS District Centre (Mitte): Regiment No. 3.

3. The regiments are divided into battalions. The battalions are identified by the coloured stripes on the armband.

   I. Battalion: Green.
   II. Battalion: Dark Blue.
   III. Battalion: Red.

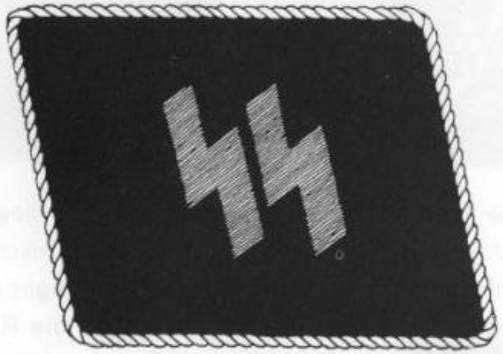
4. The companies within the regiment are numbered consecutively from 1 to 12. The company number appears on the armband.

5. The inscriptions are embroidered in white silk for all ranks up to and including SS-Obertruppführer, and in aluminium wire for officers."

[1]Mitteilungsblatt der RZM, Nr 4, 23.6.34, p. 6.

*See PLATE 2 overleaf.

PLATE 2



1

2

3

4

PLATE 3 SS-HAUPTAMT UND INSPEKTION DER SS-VT

1. Collar patch for non-commissioned ranks on the staff of the SS main office.
2. Armband worn by all officials on the staff of the SS main office. Introduced on January 29th, 1935.
3. Armband worn by all ranks on the staff of the Inspectorate of SS-Verfügungstruppen. The existence of this armband is confirmed by a photograph in the National Archives, Washington, which is too poor quality to reproduce.

[2]SS-Befehlsblatt, 29.1.35.

[3]SS-Preisliste, April 1939, p. 7.

PLATE 4 SS-SANITÄTSABTEILUNG VT

1. Collar patch for officers up to and including the rank of SS-Obersturmbannführer.
2. Shoulder strap for medical officers with the rank of SS-Untersturmführer. The underlay is dark blue, the 'Aesculapius rod' gilt metal.
3. Armband worn by all ranks.

[1]Mitteilungsblatt der RZM, Nr 22, 24.10.36, p. 479.

[3]Mitteilungsblatt der RZM, Nr 8, 11.4.36, p. 146.

PLATE 5 SS-LEIBSTANDARTE "ADOLF HITLER"

1. Collar patch for non-commissioned ranks.
2. 1st pattern other ranks shoulder strap. (See Addenda, p. 100.)
3. 2nd pattern other ranks shoulder strap.
4. 3rd pattern other ranks shoulder strap.
5. Bronzed shoulder strap cypher for commissioned ranks.
6. Armband for all ranks in the LAH, and for members and staff of Hitler's household. An example of this armband in block letters did exist, but it is thought to have been an unofficial version, privately made for the wearer.[7]

[1]SS-Preisliste Nr 1, Dezember 1934, p. 12.

[2]See photograph on page 00.

[6]SS-Preisliste Nr 1, Dezember 1934, p. 12.

[7]Adolf Hitler Bilder aus dem Leben des Führers, p. 123.

PLATE 6 SS-STANDARTE "DEUTSCHLAND"

1. Collar patch for officers up to and including SS-Obersturmbannführer.
2. 1st pattern other ranks shoulder strap.
3. 2nd pattern other ranks shoulder strap.
4. Aluminium strap cypher for non-commissioned ranks.
5. Armband for all ranks.

[1]SS-Preisliste Nr 1, Dezember 1934, p. 12.

[5]Mitteilungsblatt der RZM, Nr 6, 14.3.36, p. 97.

PLATE 7 SS-STANDARTE "GERMANIA"

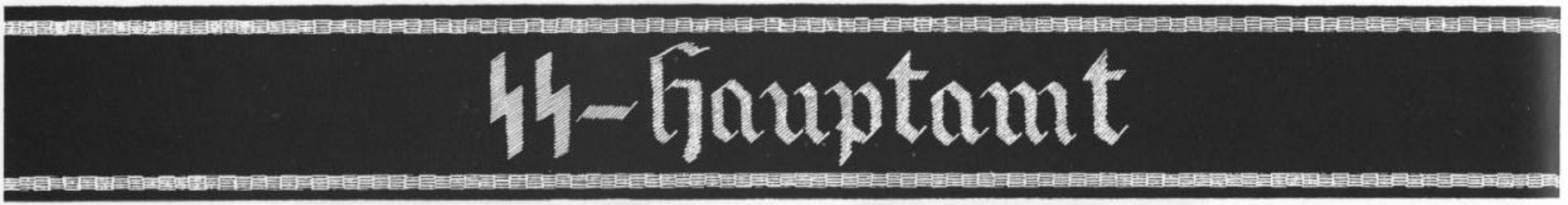
1. Collar patch for non-commissioned ranks.
2. 1st pattern other ranks shoulder strap.
3. 2nd pattern other ranks shoulder strap.
4. Bronzed cypher for commissioned ranks.
5. Armband for all ranks.

[1]SS-Preisliste Nr 1, Dezember 1934, p. 13.

[4-5]Mitteilungsblatt der RZM, Nr 22, 24.10.36, p. 479.

PLATE 3

1

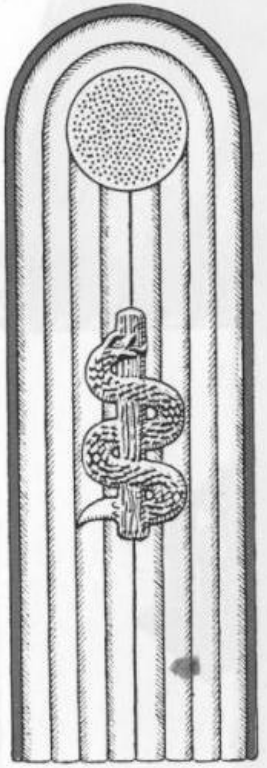


2

3

PLATE 4

1



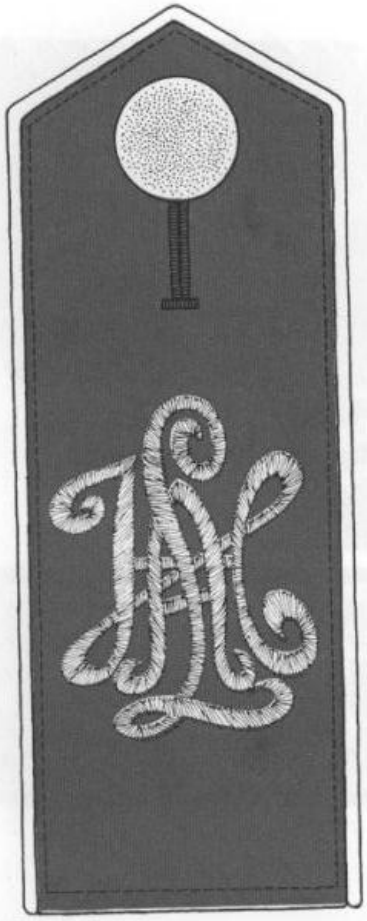
2

3

PLATE 5

1

5



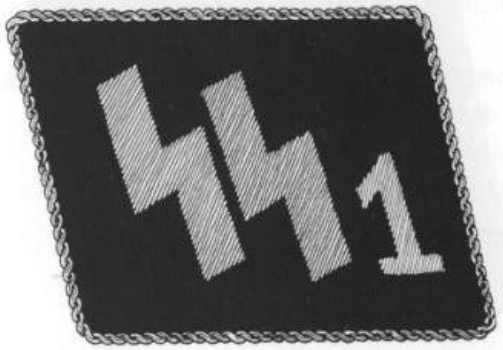
2

3

4

6

PLATE 6



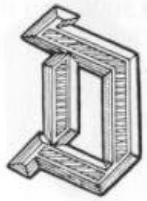


PLATE 8 SS-STANDARTE "DER FÜHRER"

1. Collar patch for officers up to and including SS-Obersturmbannführer.
2. Shoulder strap for non-commissioned ranks.
3. Bronzed strap cypher for commissioned ranks.
4. Armband for all ranks.

[1]SS-Preisliste, April 1939, p. 9.
[4]SS-Befehlsblatt, Nr 12, 25.12.38, Ziff 2.

PLATE 9 SS-STURMBANN "N"

1. Collar patch for non-commissioned ranks.
2. Armband for all ranks.

[1]Mitteilungsblatt der RZM, Nr 2242.10.36, p. 479.

PLATE 10 SS-NACHRICHTENSTURMBANN

1. Collar patch for non-commissioned ranks.
2. Shoulder strap for non-commissioned ranks.
3. 1st pattern armband for all ranks.
4. 2nd pattern armband for all ranks.

[1]Mitteilungsblatt der RZM., Nr 26., 28.9.35., p 265.

PLATE 11 SS-PIONIERSTURMBANN

1. Collar patch for officers up to and including SS-Obersturmbannführer.
2. Shoulder strap for non-commissioned ranks.
3. 1st pattern armband for all ranks.
4. 2nd pattern armband for all ranks.

[1]Mitteilungsblatt der RZM., Nr 21., 20.7.35., p 213.

PLATE 12 SS-FÜHRERSCHULE TÖLZ

1. 1st pattern collar patch for commissioned members of the staff.
2. 2nd pattern collar patch for cadets and non-commissioned members of the staff.
3. Shoulder strap for member of the staff with the rank of SS-Hauptsturmführer. Cypher and stars in bronzed metal.
4. 2nd pattern armband for all ranks.
5. 3rd pattern armband for all ranks.

[1]SS-Preisliste Nr 1., Dezember 1934., p 12.
[4]SS-Preisliste Nr 1., Dezember 1934., p 12.

PLATE 13 SS-FÜHRERSCHÜLE BRAUNSCHWEIG

1. 1st pattern collar patch for commissioned members of the staff.
2. 2nd pattern collar patch for commissioned members of the staff.
3. Shoulder strap for member of the staff with the rank of SS-Sturmbannführer. Cypher (Namenzug) in bronzed metal.
4. 1st pattern armband for all ranks.
5. 2nd pattern armband for all ranks.

[1]Mitteilungsblatt der RZM., Nr 24., 31.8.35., p 241.

PLATE 14 SS-VERWALTUNGSCHULE UND ÄRTZLICHE AKADEMIE

1. Collar patch for commissioned members of the staff.
2. Armband for all ranks.
3. Armband for all ranks in the Medical Academy.

[1–2] See photograph on page 25
[3] Das Schwarze Korps Nr 19., 11.5.44., p 3

PLATE 7

1

4

2

3

5

PLATE 8

1

3

2

4

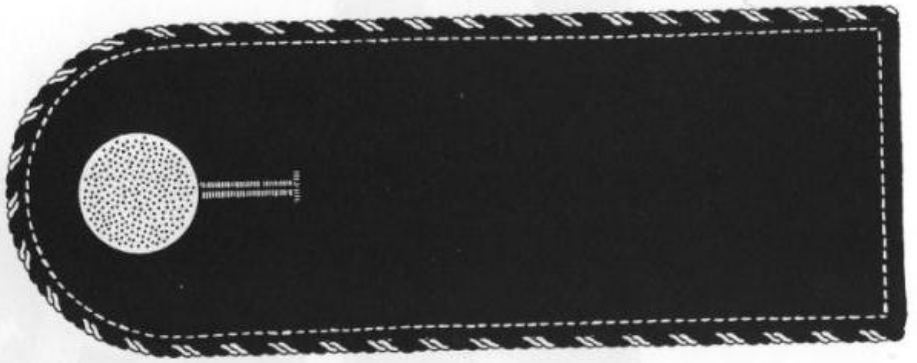
PLATE 9

1

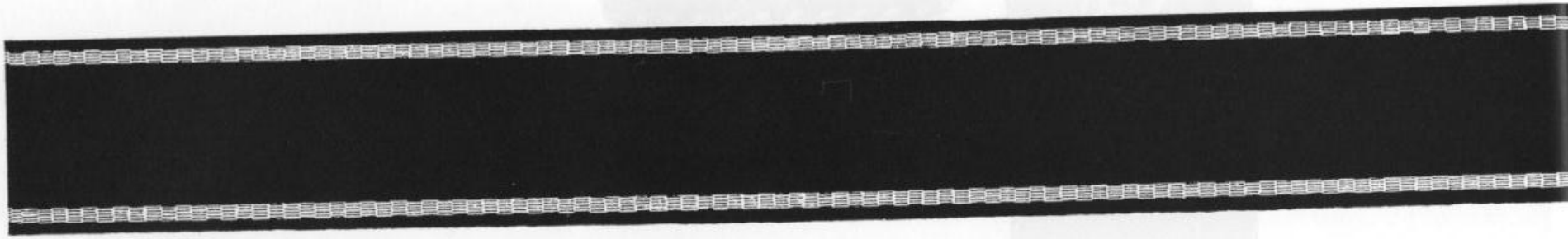
2

PLATE 10

1



2



3

4

PLATE 11

1

2

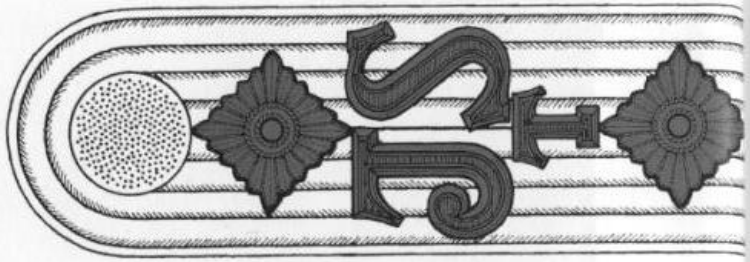
3

4

PLATE 12

1

2



3

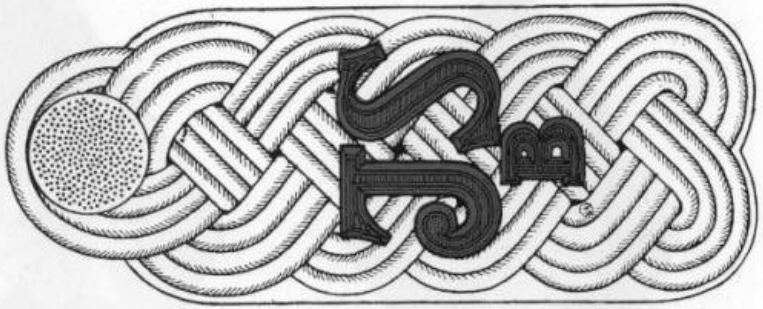
4

5

PLATE 13

1

2



3

4

5

PLATE 14

1

2

3

SS-ÄRMELABZEICHEN
SS Armbadges

Armbadges (Raute) were worn on the lower left sleeve, 3.5 cms above the armband.

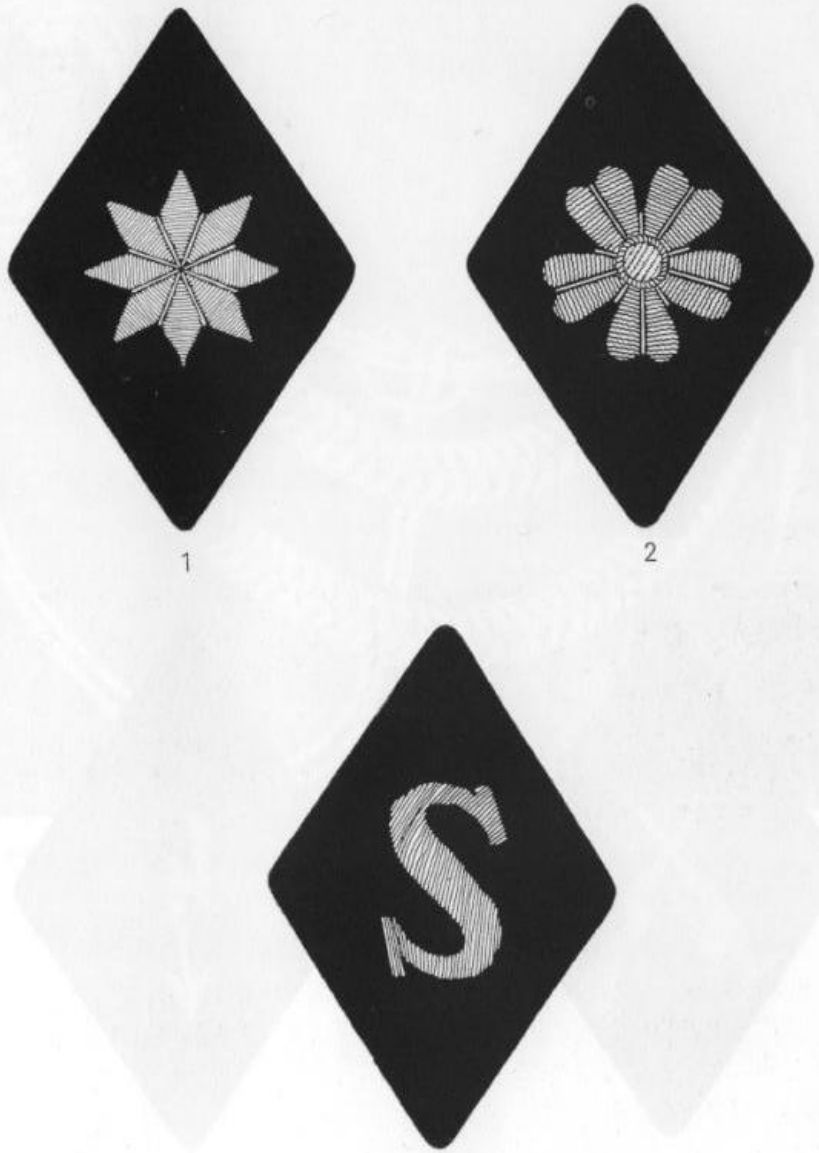
All armbadges were supplied by the RZM, until February 1936 when it was announced that they would no longer be available, and retailers were advised to mark their lists accordingly. Presumably in future these badges could only be obtained from the qualifying body.[1]

PLATE 15

1. Officer in administrative service. Introduced 25.2.38.
2. Officer in legal service. Introduced 20.3.38.
3. Doctor.
4. Bandmaster.
5. Officer in technical service.
6. Officer and n.c.o. in veterinary service.
7. Technical sergeant (Schirrmeister).
8. Armourer n.c.o.
9. Signals personnel.
10. Farrier.
11. Medical personnel.

[1]Mitteilungsblatt der RZM., Nr 3., 1.2.36., p 27.

PLATE 15



1 2

7

PLATE 15

3

4

5

6

8

9

10

11

SS-ADJUTANTENSCHNUR
SS Adjutants' cords

With effect from the 1st May 1938, SS officers officially appointed adjutant in the Allgemeine-SS, SS-Verfügungstruppe, and SS-Totenkopfverbände, were entitled to wear a new pattern aluminium and black cord. The old black and white silk cord could be worn until the 31st December, 1938.[1] See volume 1, page 57.

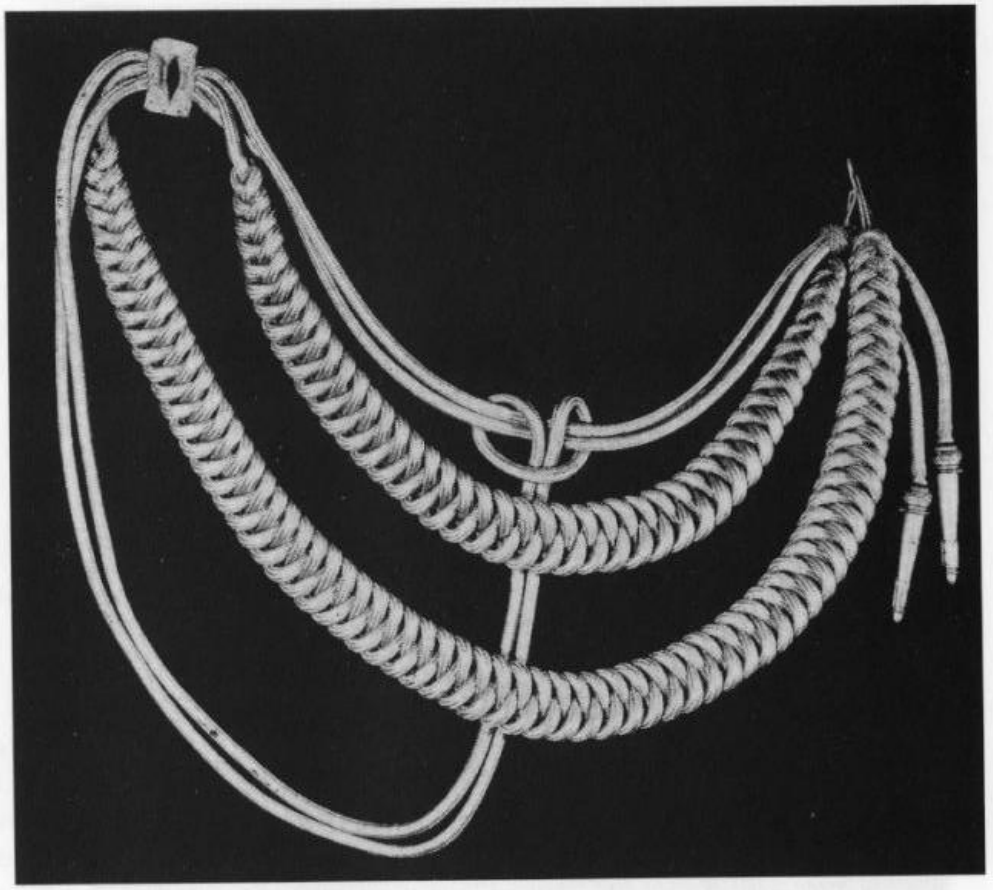
The army pattern made of aluminium cord was also worn on field-grey uniform.[2]

SS-ACHSELBAND
SS Aiguillette

The army pattern officers' aiquillette in aluminium cord was worn for the first time at the 1937 Nurenberg Rally, by officers of the Regiment "Deutschland" didn't receive it until July 1938. The LAH. aiguillette was worn with both walking-out and parade dress, as well as with formal evening dress. See volume 1, page 13.

The aiguillette was worn under the right shoulder strap, and the other end was attached to a small button, under the right lapel.

[1]SS-Befehlsblatt., Nr 4., 25.4.38., p 2.
[2]See Weidinger. Division Das Reich, opp page 225.
[3]Weidinger. Division Das Reich., p 47.



Officers' aiguillette. Mollo Collection.

A senior n.c.o. of the LAH with sabre National Archives.

SS-SÄBEL
SS Sabre

Before the introduction in 1935 of the SS sword, officers wore the army pattern with lion's head pommel in silver instead of gilt finish. Certain examples had the SS runes in a black enamelled circle on the reverse langet, and the SS motto MEINE EHRE HEISST TREUE etched on the blade.

Mounted personnel were issued with the army pattern cavalry sabre, which had a plain nickel plated hilt and black enamelled scabbard.[1] See for example Eickhorn's other ranks sabre, Model No 189.

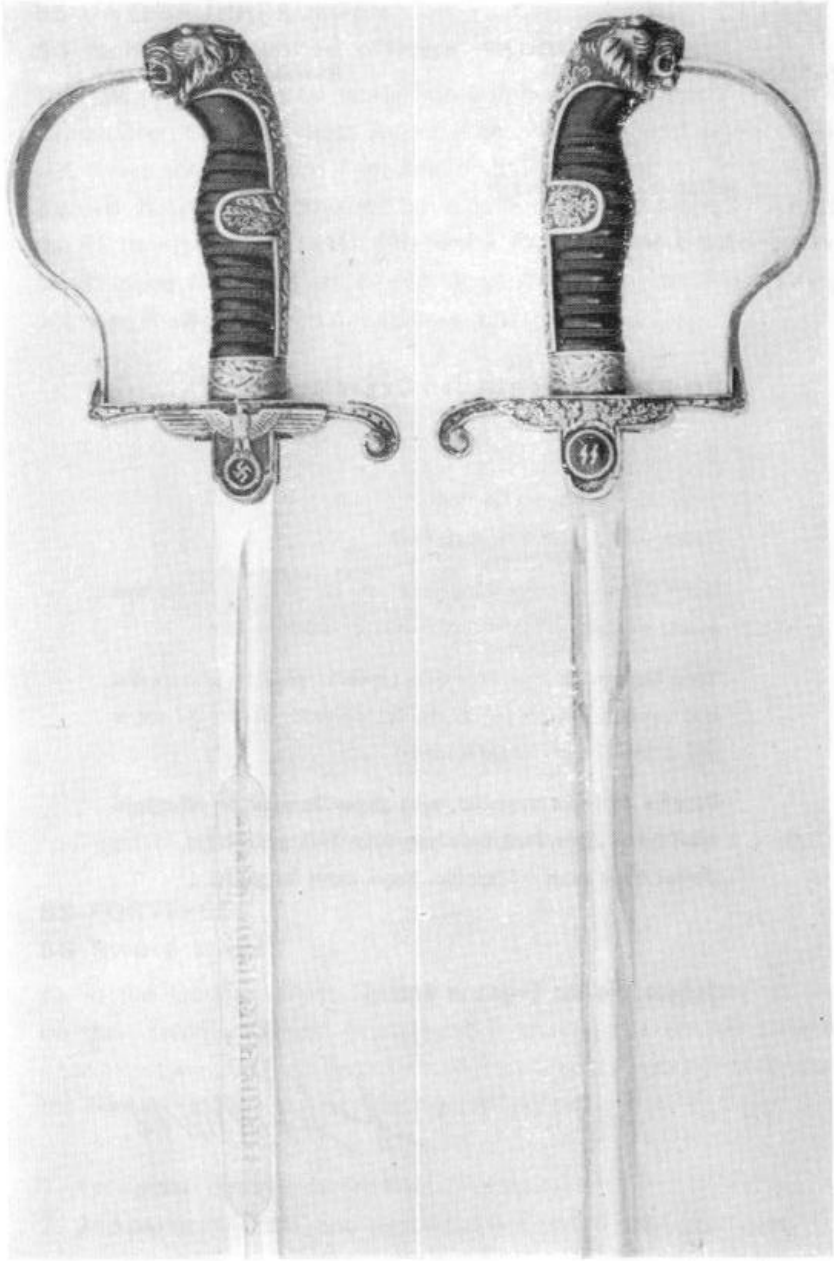
[1] Das Schwarze Korps. No. 2., 10.6.37., p.3

SS-FÜHRERDEGEN
SS Officers' sword

The new officers' sword was presented by the Reichsführer-SS, to battalion commanders and above in the SS-Verfügungstruppen, General SS leaders with the rank of SS-Standartenführer and above, and departmental chiefs in the SS Main offices (Hauptämter).

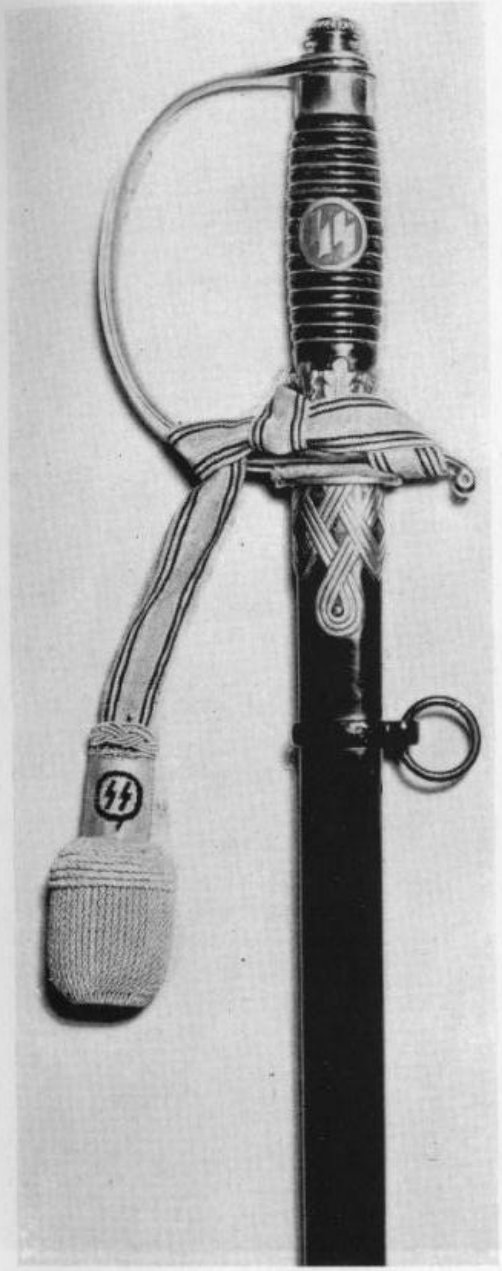
Graduates of the SS officer schools were automatically presented with the sword at a special ceremony on passing out. These swords, and those presented by the Reichsführer-SS as special awards, were known as honour swords (SS-Ehren-Degen). If the sword presented by the Reichsführer-SS was lost, a new one could be purchased from the SS Clothing office (SS-Kleiderkasse) on presentation of the award certificate[1].

Sword. Nickel plated knuckle bow, quillon and tang button. Black wooden grip bound with silvered wire, and inset white metal SS runes. Black enamelled metal scabbard with band, loose ring, and nickel plated locket and chape. Plain straight polished steel blade with one narrow fuller.



Officers' sabre by Eickhorn. F. J. Stephens / J. Angolia Collection.

SS-Untersturmführer Karl Böhmer, in walking-out dress with army pattern sabre.



SS officers' sword

Der Reichsführer-SS

Nürnberg, 13. September 1936

SS-Untersturmführer

B ö h m e r Karl , SS-Nr.161 334.

Ich verleihe Ihnen den Degen der SS

Ziehen Sie ihn niemals ohne Not!
Stecken Sie ihn niemals ein ohne Ehre!

Wahren Sie Ihre eigene Ehre ebenso bedingungslos, wie Sie die Ehre anderer zu achten und für Schutzlose ritterlich einzutreten haben!

Dieser Degen soll in Ihrer Sippe Besitz verbleiben, wenn Sie ihn ein Leben lang untadelig getragen haben. Scheiden Sie vorher aus der SS aus, so fällt er zurück an den Reichsführer-SS.

Vergessen Sie keinen Augenblick, welch großes Vertrauen die Schutzstaffel Adolf Hitlers Ihnen durch Verleihung dieser Waffe geschenkt hat.
Bleiben Sie in guten und schlechten Tagen immer der gleiche!

Führen Sie den Degen in Ehren!

H. Himmler

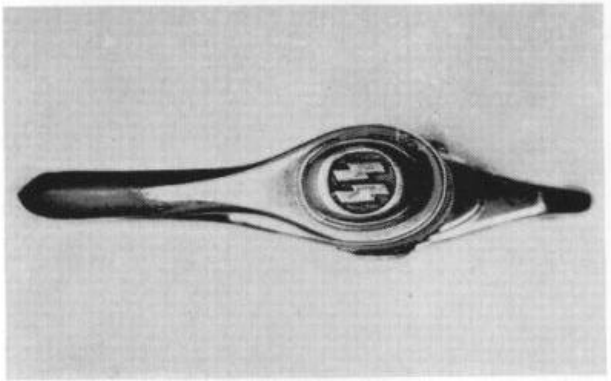
Award citation for the SS sword.

SS-UNTERFÜHRERDEGEN

SS Non-commissioned officers' sword

This sword was worn by senior non-commissioned officers (Portepee-Unterführer) with full dress, informal service dress, and when walking out. It was not to be worn in the field or during training.

Sword. Nickel plated knuckle bow, quillon and cap piece, which bore the SS runes. Black wooden grip. Black enamelled metal scabbard with band, loose ring, and shoe, and nickel plated locket. Plain straight polished steel blade with one narrow fuller.



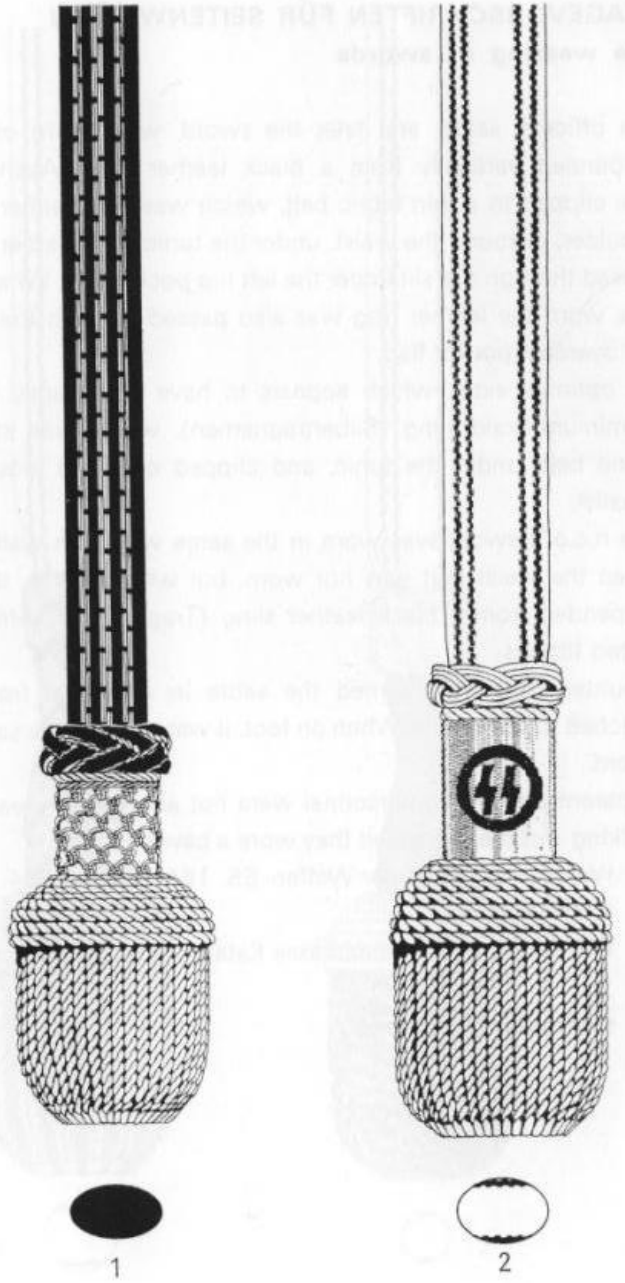
Detail of the top of the tang button of the SS n.c.o.'s sword.

SS-PORTEPEE

SS Sword knots

As in the German army, SS officers and n.c.o.'s wore sword knots on their swords. Certain officers wore privately purchased bayonets, on which they tied their sword knot[2]. This practise was common during the First World War, but rare during the Second.

1. 1st pattern officers' sword knot (Portepee)
2. 2nd pattern officers' and senior n.c.o.'s sword knot (Portepee)



1 2

TRAGEVORSCHRIFTEN FÜR SEITENWAFFEN
The wearing of swords

The officers' sabre, and later the sword, were worn on the left hip, suspended vertically from a black leather frog (Aushakteil), which was clipped to a thin fabric belt, which was worn either over the right shoulder, or round the waist, under the tunic. The leather frog was then passed through the slit under the left hip pocket flap. When the overcoat was worn the leather frog was also passed through the slit under the left overcoat pocket flap.

An optional extra, which appears to have been rarely worn, was an aluminium braid sling (Silbertragriemen), which was attached to the fabric belt, under the tunic, and clipped onto the loose ring on the sheath[3].

The n.c.o.'s sword was worn in the same way with walking-out dress when the waist belt was not worn, but when it was, the sword was suspended from a black leather sling (Tragriemen), which had nickel plated fittings.

Mounted personnel carried the sabre in a special frog which was attached to the saddle. When on foot, it was worn in the same way as the sword.

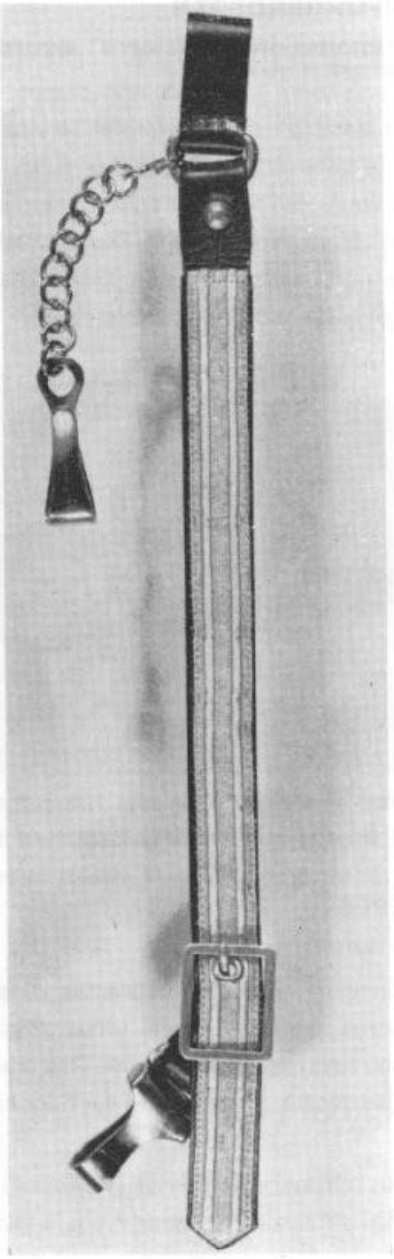
Apparently mounted personnel were not allowed to wear a sabre with walking-out dress Instead they wore a bayonet[4].

[1]Verordnungsblatt der Waffen-SS, 1940, Ziff Nr 234.

[2]Damals, p. 33.

[3]SS der NSDAP, Kleiderkasse Katalog. Gültig ab 1 November 1940, p. 13.

[4]Feldgrau, 1954, p. 131.

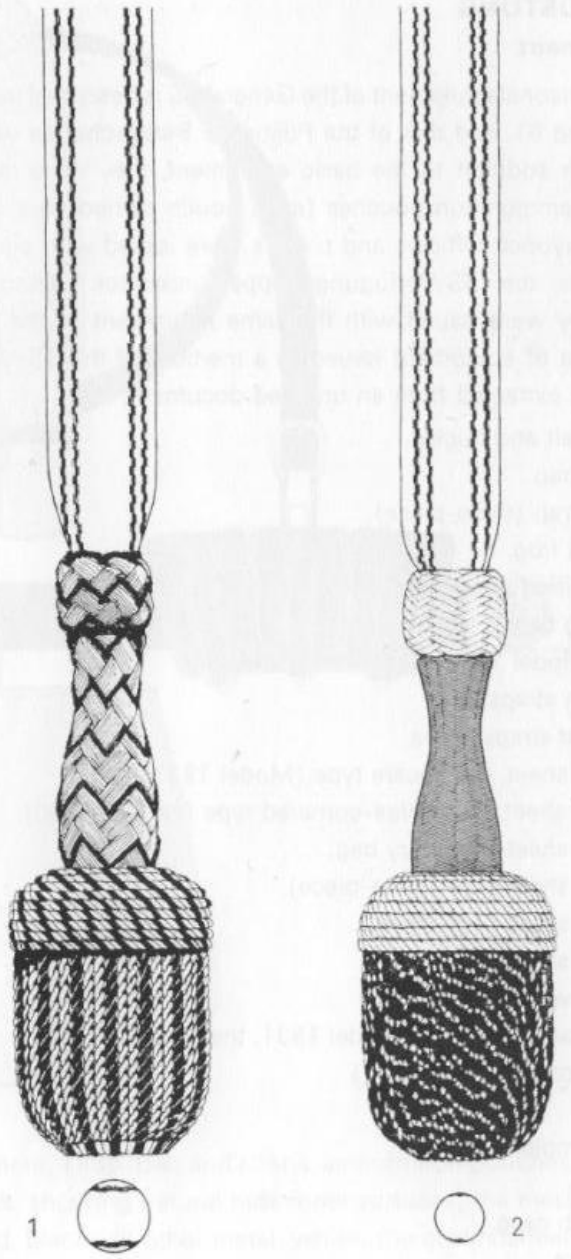


SS-SEITENGEWEHRE
SS Bayonets

The issue 84/98 short Mauser bayonet was worn with all orders of dress. It was carried in a black leather frog (Seitengewehrtasche), and suspended from the waist belt, on the left hip. With undress uniform privately purchased (Extra) bayonets, with nickel plated fittings and black enamelled sheaths, were worn.

SS-TRODDELN
SS Bayonet knots

Bayonet knots were probably introduced in 1933. The bayonet knot was divided into five parts, the strap, slide, stem, crown and tassel. The colour of the slide and crown identified the company, and the stem, the battalion of the wearer.
The knot was worn tied to the leather bayonet frog, so that it hung in front of the bayonet.



1. Junior n.c.o.'s bayonet knot, for Unterführer ohne Portepee.
2. Soldier's bayonet knot; the stem is red. Despite the owner's name tag, sewn inside the strap of an original example in the author's collection and indicating 1st company, I battalion, it is thought that this knot was for the 5th company, II battalion. If so, then the SS-VT used the same colour sequence as the Army.

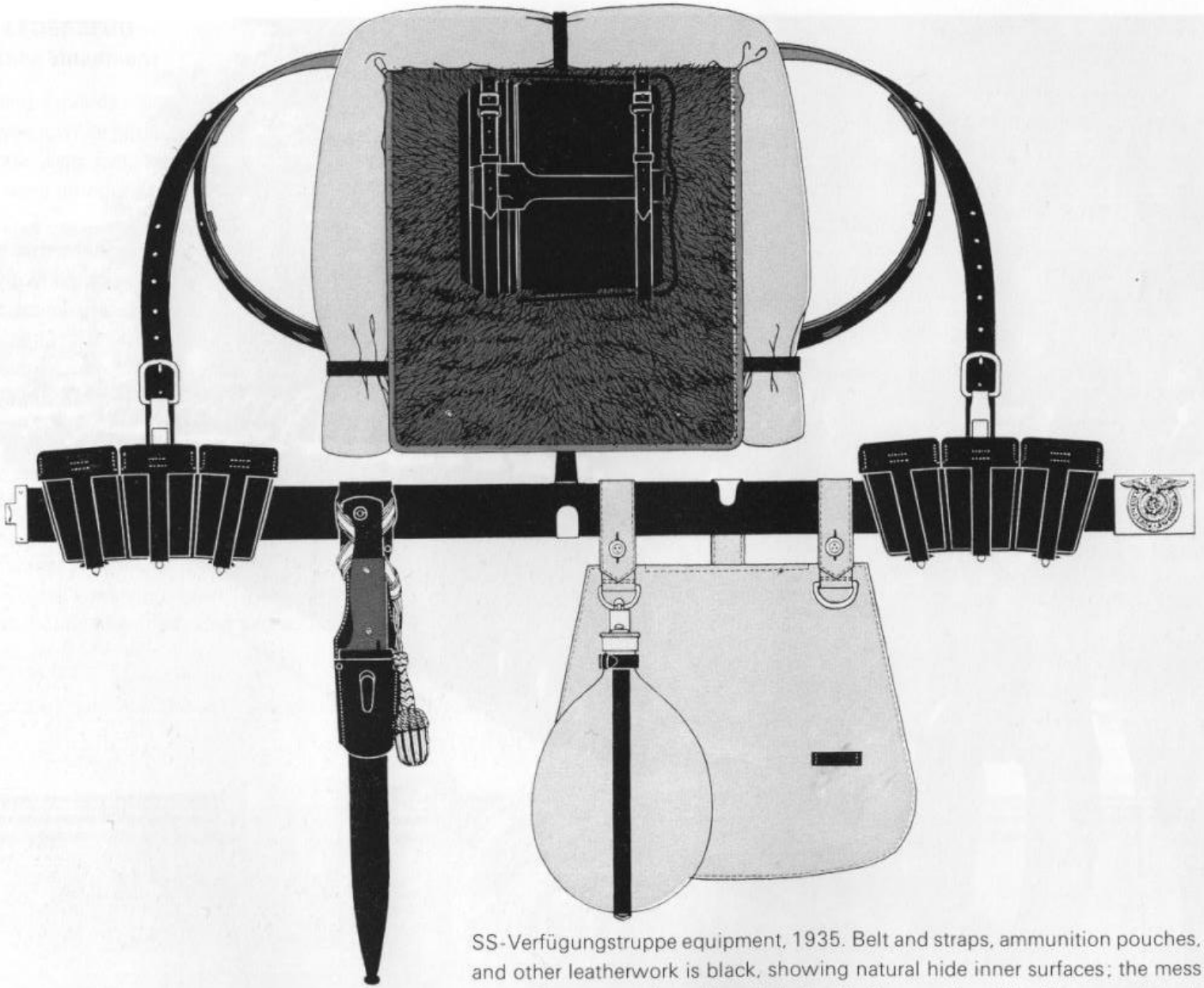
SS-AUSRÜSTUNG
SS Equipment

The basic personal equipment of the General SS is described in volume 1, pages 60 and 61, and that of the Politische Bereitschaften was exactly the same. In addition to the basic equipment, they were issued with old pattern ammunition pouches (each pouch carried nine clips), and an 84/98 bayonet. Officers and n.c.o.'s were issued with pistols.

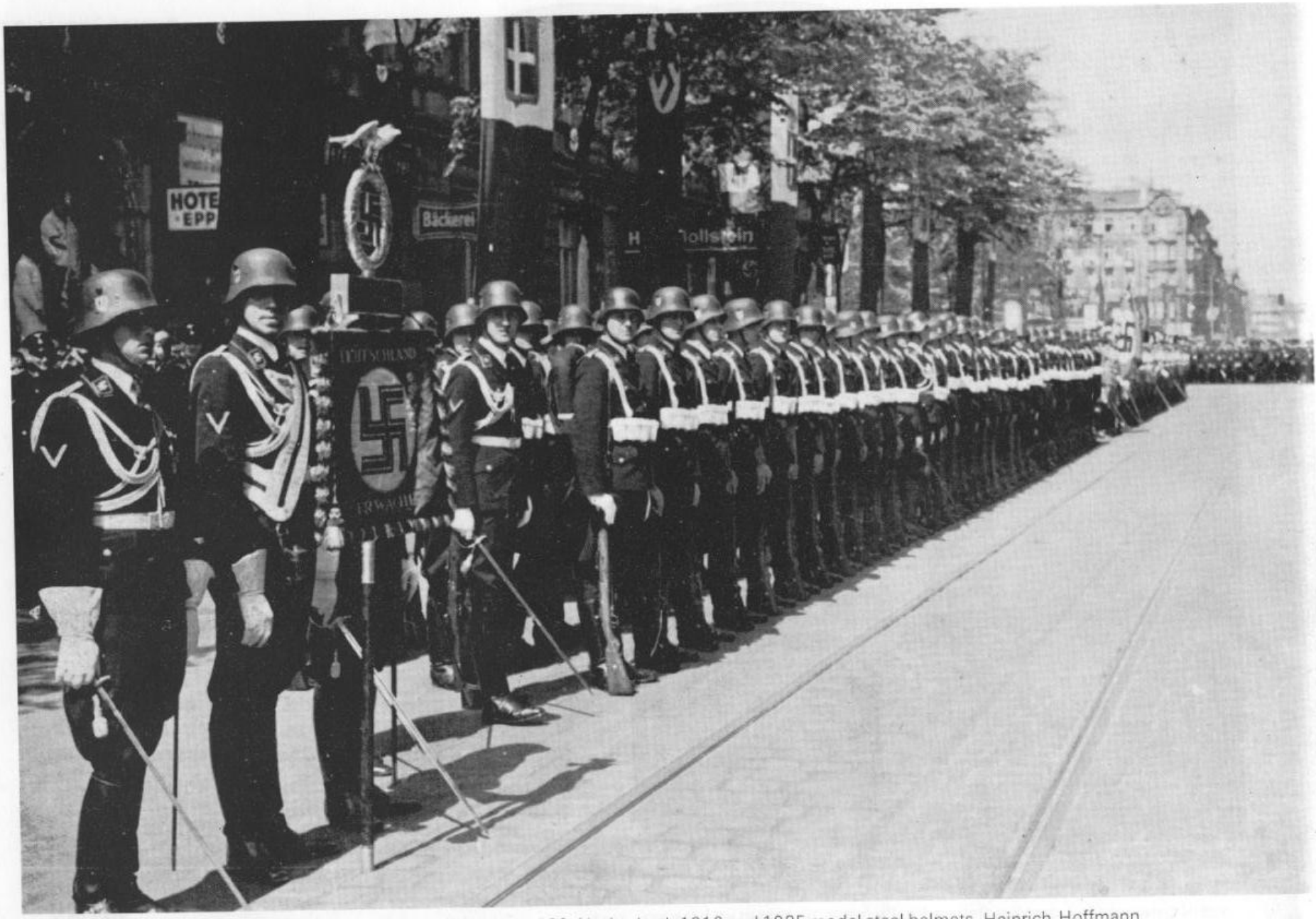
As soon as the SS-Verfügungstruppe undertook serious military training, they were issued with the same equipment as the army. The following list of equipment issued to a member of the SS-Verfügungstruppe was extracted from an undated document.

Waist belt and buckle.
Cross strap.
Cross strap (three-piece).
Bayonet frog.
Ammunition pouches, pair.
Clothing bag.
Pack (Model 1934).
Mess tin straps, pair.
Overcoat straps, three.
Ground sheet, old square type (Model 1931), grey.
Ground sheet, new three-cornered type (camouflaged).
Ground sheet accessory bag.
Ground sheet pole (three-piece).
Ground sheet pegs (three).
Ground sheet line.
Pack cover.
Bread bag with strap (Model 1931, then Model 1934).
Water bottle (Model 1931).
Cup.
Eating implements.
Mess tin.
Despatch case.
Map case.

The original caption states that 'on September 11th, 1938, 120,000 Storm Troopers were reviewed by Herr Hitler at Nuremberg.' For an event covered by the world press, rifles were left in camp. Associated Press.



SS-Verfügungstruppe equipment, 1935. Belt and straps, ammunition pouches, and other leatherwork is black, showing natural hide inner surfaces; the mess tin and bayonet and scabbard, black; all other metal, white; the groundsheet, breadbag, and water bottle cover, grey; the pack, natural brown calfskin; the bayonet grips, brown wood – and note junior n.c.o.'s Troddel.



LAH guard of honour awaiting Mussolini's arrival in Munich, 1938. Notice both 1916 and 1935 model steel helmets. Heinrich Hoffmann.

WEISSES LEDERZEUG
White leather equipment

The LAH being a guards regiment, spent much of its time on ceremonial duties, for which white equipment was introduced in stages.
In 1936 white waist belt, cross strap, bayonet frog, pistol holster and pack straps were introduced and worn together with black ammunition pouches.[1]
In 1937 the white leather waist belt and cross strap was replaced by an aluminium braid belt (Feldbinde) for officers of the LAH. This belt was introduced generally in 1938.[2]
In January 1938 the LAH marched past Adolf Hitler wearing white leather waist belts, cross straps, bayonet frogs, and ammunition pouches. The Reich's Chancellery guard detachment wore white leather equipment when on duty at the Chancellery.

[1]Reichstagung in Nürnberg 1936, p. 321.
[2]Mitteilungsblatt der RZM, Nr 6, 25.4.38, p. 11.

Right
1936 was the first year in which the LAH appeared in white equipment. Here they are still wearing black ammunition pouches. The army camouflaged ground sheet is folded and strapped on top of the rolled greatcoat.

Officers' parade belt (Feldbinde), introduced in 1937-38. Mollo Collection.

ORDERS OF DRESS (EQUIPMENT)

KEY

— =Obligatory

O =Optional

W =Winter

S =Summer (1st April—30th September)

Nos =Footnotes

		Waist belt and cross strap, black leather	Waist belt and cross strap, white leather	Parade belt (intr. 1937/38)	Waist belt, black leather	Pistol holster, black leather	Pistol holster, white leather (intr. 1936)	Bayonet in black leather frog	Bayonet in white leather frog (intr. 1936)	Sabre/sword	Dagger	Ammunition pouches, pr, black leather	Ammo. pouches, pr,white leather (intr.1938)	Pack with black leather straps	Pack with white leather straps (intr. 1936)	Assault pack	Bread bag	Waterbottle	Mess tin	Ground sheet	Map case	Binoculars	Gas mask and cape	Entrenching tool	Submachine gun magazine pouches	Machine gun tool kit	Anti-tank gunners sling	Medical pouch
Battle dress	officers	—				O															—	—	—		O			
(Feldanzug)	n.c.o.'s				—			—				1				—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	1			
	men				—	4		—				—		3		—	—	—	—	2			—	—		4	4	4
Service dress	officers	—				O				O																		
(Dienstanzug)	n.c.o.'s				—			5		5																		
	men				—			—																				
Guard dress	officers	—				O				O																		
(Wachanzug)	n.c.o.'s				—	—				5																		
	men				—			—				—																
Informal service dress	officers	O								—																		
(Kleine Dienstanzug)	n.c.o.'s	O								—																		
Parade dress	officers	—	—	—						—																		
(Paradeanzug)	n.c.o.'s	—	—					—	—	5		—	—	—	—													
	men		—		—			—	—			—	—	—	—													
Reporting dress	officers																											
(Meldeanzug)	n.c.o.'s																											
	men																											
Walking-out dress	officers									—	6																	
(Ausgehanzug)	n.c.o.'s									5	6																	
	men							6	6		6																	

1. Officers, section commanders (Gruppenführer), and troop leaders (Truppenführer) when armed with submachine guns, wore magazine pouches.

2. The first SS ground sheet (Zeltbahn) was made of grey water repellant duck, then the army camouflaged pattern was introduced, which was eventually replaced by the SS pattern.

3. Before the war the full pack was worn, but during the war, it travelled with the company baggage, and an assault pack, consisting of ground sheet, and mess tin, was worn in its place.

4. Machine gunners carried a tool kit pouch (Werkzeugtasche) and a pistol, and the crew, a pistol, rifle and one ammunition pouch. Crews of anti tank guns often carried only one ammunition pouch, and a wide black leather or green canvas sling (Schleppriemen) for manhandling the anti-tank gun.
   Medical orderlies often carried pistols, and one or two black leather pouches which contained first-aid dressings.

5. Senior n.c.o.'s (Portepee-Unterführer) were entitled to wear swords, other n.c.o.'s wore bayonets. All n.c.o.'s wore a pistol on certain occasions.

6. Daggers appear to have been rarely worn by members of the SS-VT, although the dagger could be worn with walking-out dress.

FELDAUSRÜSTUNG
Field equipment

The SS was also responsible for designing, manufacturing and testing a number of new items of assault equipment, such as lightweight canvas belts and grenade bags, pouches for submachine-gun magazines, and a new type of assault pack, which later became standard army issue.[1] But during the Polish and French campaigns many SS units were still equipped with obsolete German and foreign weapons. This meant that SS men appeared carrying such items of equipment as canvas pouches for the Czech or German MG 13 magazines, and a wooden holster-come stock for the Mauser automatic pistol.

There were many bags; pouches; containers and boxes which SS men in action carried or wore. These contained such things as demolition equipment, gun and mortar sights, range finders, ammunition, shells, spare barrels for machine-guns, to mention but a few. Most of these come under the category of weapons and their accessories, and therefore fall outside the scope of this work.

SS-SPORTKLEIDUNG
SS Sports clothes (as at April 1939) 1.

Sports shoes, Model 1931 (Army pattern).
Sports trousers, black sateen.
Sports shirt with SS badge,*white.
Training jacket with SS badge,*blue.
Training trousers, blue.

*Members of the LAH had their own sports badge.
[1]SS-Preisliste, April 1939, pp. 2 and 3.
[2]Weidinger Division Das Reich, Vol 1., p. 104.

Sports vest badge for members of the LAH.

Members of the LAH in sports clothes. Later they had their own sports vest badge.
National Archives

SS-SPIELMANNSZÜGE UND SS-MUSIKZÜGE

SS Corps of drums and bands

Basically SS bands conformed with the standard German army band, and consisted of between 36 and 45 musicians, while at one time the band of the LAH had 72, making it the largest military band of all[1]. In the case of regiment "Deutschland", professional musicians were recruited and given six weeks basic military training before serving in the band under a bandmaster or director of music[2]. Musicians were also given an elementary medical training, so that they were capable of acting as orderlies.

Bands of the SS-Verfügungstruppe were allowed to beat the retreat (Grosse Zapfenstreich), whereas bands of the Allgemeine-SS were not[3]. The usual march tempo was 110 paces to the minute[4].

Each battalion had a corps of drums (Spielmannszug). Drummers and fifers were picked from the companies, and were trained to play on drum, fife and bugle (Signalhorn). The corps of drums was commanded by a drum-major (Bataillonstambour) who was on the battalion staff.

The following list of instruments is given in order of march, and may be considered typical, as there were no hard and fast rules, as to how many of each instrument there should be. Bandmasters, like everyone else, tended to have their personal likes and dislikes[5].

	Drum Major	
Side drum	Side drum	Side drum
Side drum	Side drum	Side drum
Fife	Fife	Fife
Fife	Fife	Fife
J. Johnnie	Bandmaster	
Bass tuba	Bass tuba	F. Tuba
Tenor trombone	Trumpet	Euphonium
Tenor trombone	Trumpet	Tenor trumpet
Tenor trombone	Trumpet	Tenor trumpet
S. trumpet	Trumpet	Bassoon
S. trumpet	Oboe	French horn
Glockenspiel	Piccolo	French horn
Clarinet	Clarinet	French horn
Clarinet	Clarinet	French horn
Clarinet	Clarinet	Side drum
Clarinet	Clarinet	Cymbals
E. Clarinet	Clarinet	Bass drum

Bands stationed in Bavaria included the traditional bass trumpet.
Each SS band was given a serial number, and its establishment was laid down as follows:

SS-MUSIKZUG* SS-LEIBSTANDARTE "ADOLF HITLER" (SS-297), 1935(?)

	Sonderpersonal	Unterführer	SS-Mannschaften
Führer des Zuges	1		
Musikeroberscharführer**		5	
Musikerunterscharführer		26	
SS-Musikermannschaften			40

SS-MUSIKZUG* BERITTEN. SS-NACHRICHTENSTURMBANN (SS-999)., 13.11.34

				Pferde	
	S. personal	U. Führer	SS-Mann.	Führer	Reiter
Führer des Zuges (bis Hstuf.)	1				
Musikeroberscharführer**		2			
Musikerunterscharführer		10			
SS-Musikermannschaften			15		
				1	27

SS-MUSIKZUG* SS-PIONIERSTURMBANN (SS-799)

	S. personal	U. Führer	SS-Mann.
Führer des Zuges (bis Hstuf.)	1		
Musikeroberscharführer**		2	
Musikerunterscharführer		10	
SS-Musikermannschaften			15

*Prior to November 1934 known as Musiktrupp.

**Prior to November 1934 known as Musikertruppführer.

SS-SCHWALBENNESTER

"Swallows' nests"

Musicians in the SS, as in the army wore special wings or "swallows' nests" which were made of black cloth and trimmed with 2 cm wide aluminium or silver-grey braid. (See volume 1, pages 64 and 65).

Bandsmen also had 3 cm long aluminium or silver-grey fringe, and Drum-majors (Bataillonstambour) had 7 cm long fringe.[1] Directors of music wore a lyre embroidered in aluminium wire on their lower left sleeve, and gilt metal lyre on army pattern shoulder straps.

The LAH appear to have had different "swallow's nests". Members of the corps of drums during the 1933 Nuremberg Rally wore 2 cm long aluminium fringe.[2], and according to the 1941 SS pricelist, bandsmen had 5 cm long silver-grey or aluminium fringe.[3]

[1]SS-Preisliste, April 1939, p. 11.

[2]Reichstagung in Nürnberg, 1934, p. 240.

[3]SS-Preisliste, März 1941, p. 7.

SCHELLENBAUM

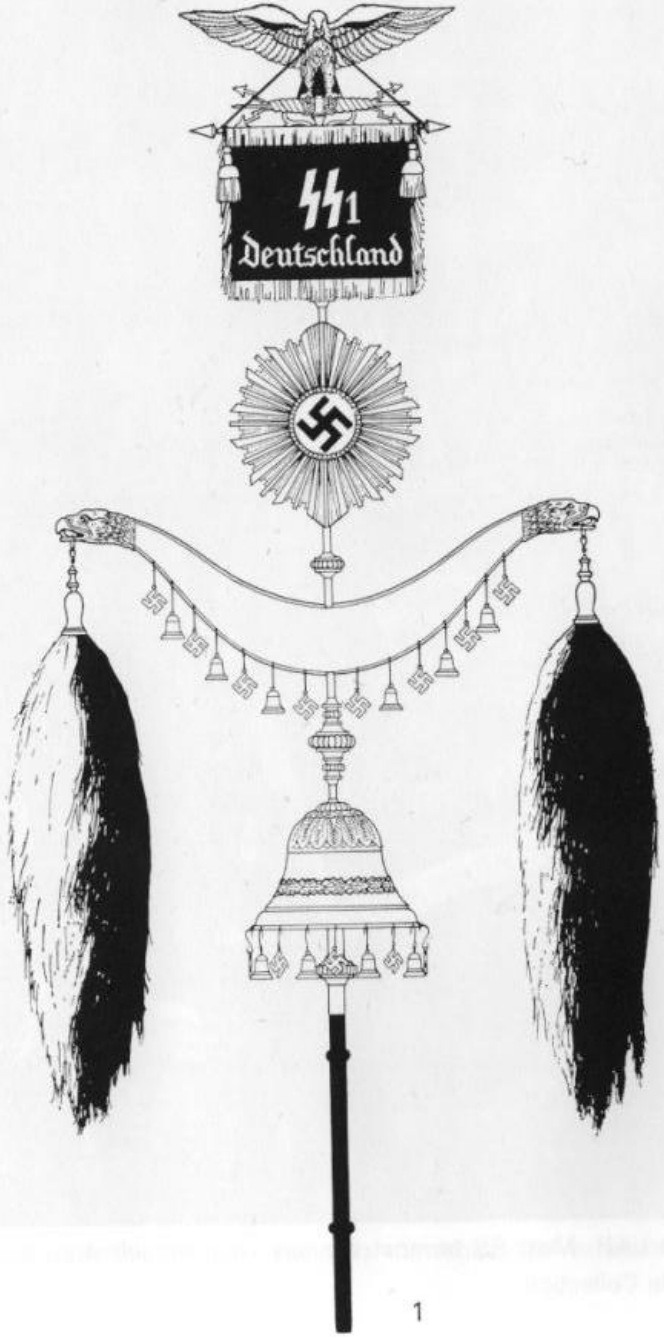
"Jingling Johnnie"

"Jingling Johnnies" varied considerably from one unit to another, and tended to be either modified imperial ones, or newly assembled from standard components, such as the eagle, star, half-moon, and horse tails. The central metal star appeared in two forms, both of which bore the swastika in black in the centre. The parade flag was made of black velvet on which was embroidered the regimental emblem, in aluminium wire. It had 5 cm aluminium wire fringe on all four sides, and four aluminium tassels. The horse tails were black and white. The average height was 2 m 41 cm.

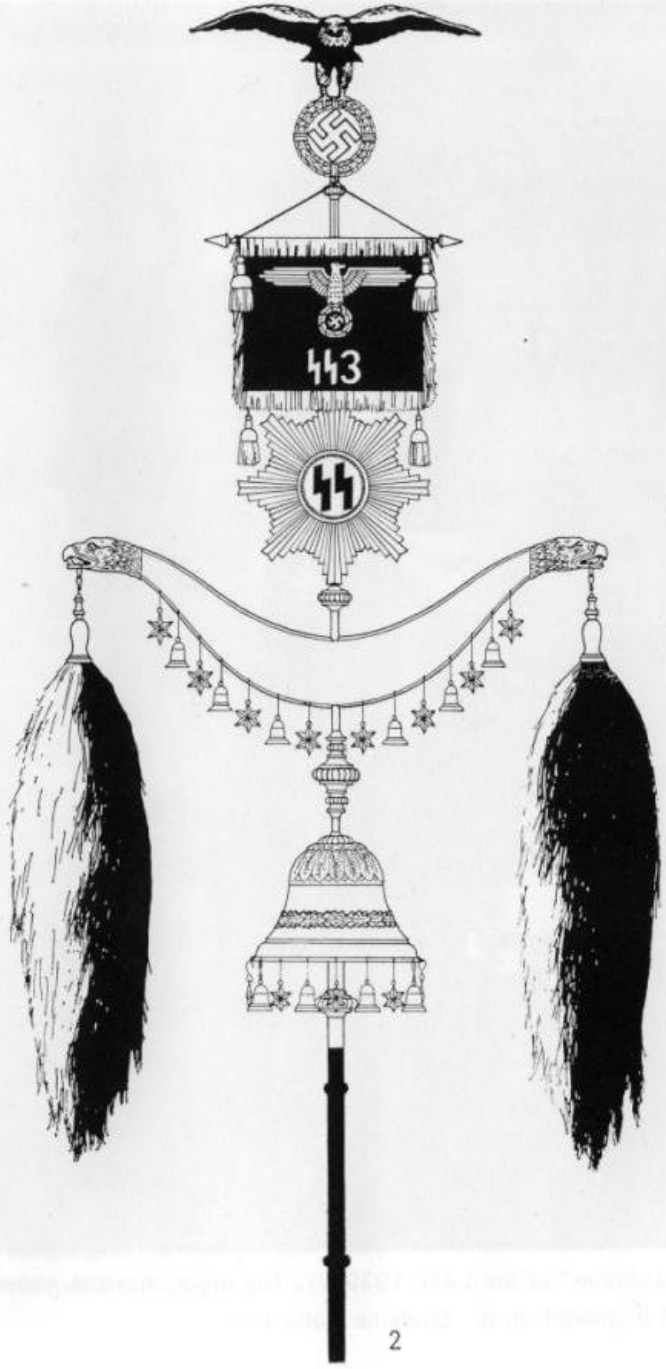
Regulations stated that it should be carried by a suitably athletic n.c.o. The bearer of the "Jingling Johnnie" of the Regiment "Deutschland" wore a gorget (Ringkragen).

1. "Jingling Johnnie" of the Regiment "Deutschland".

2. "Jingling Johnnie" of the Regiment "Der Führer"



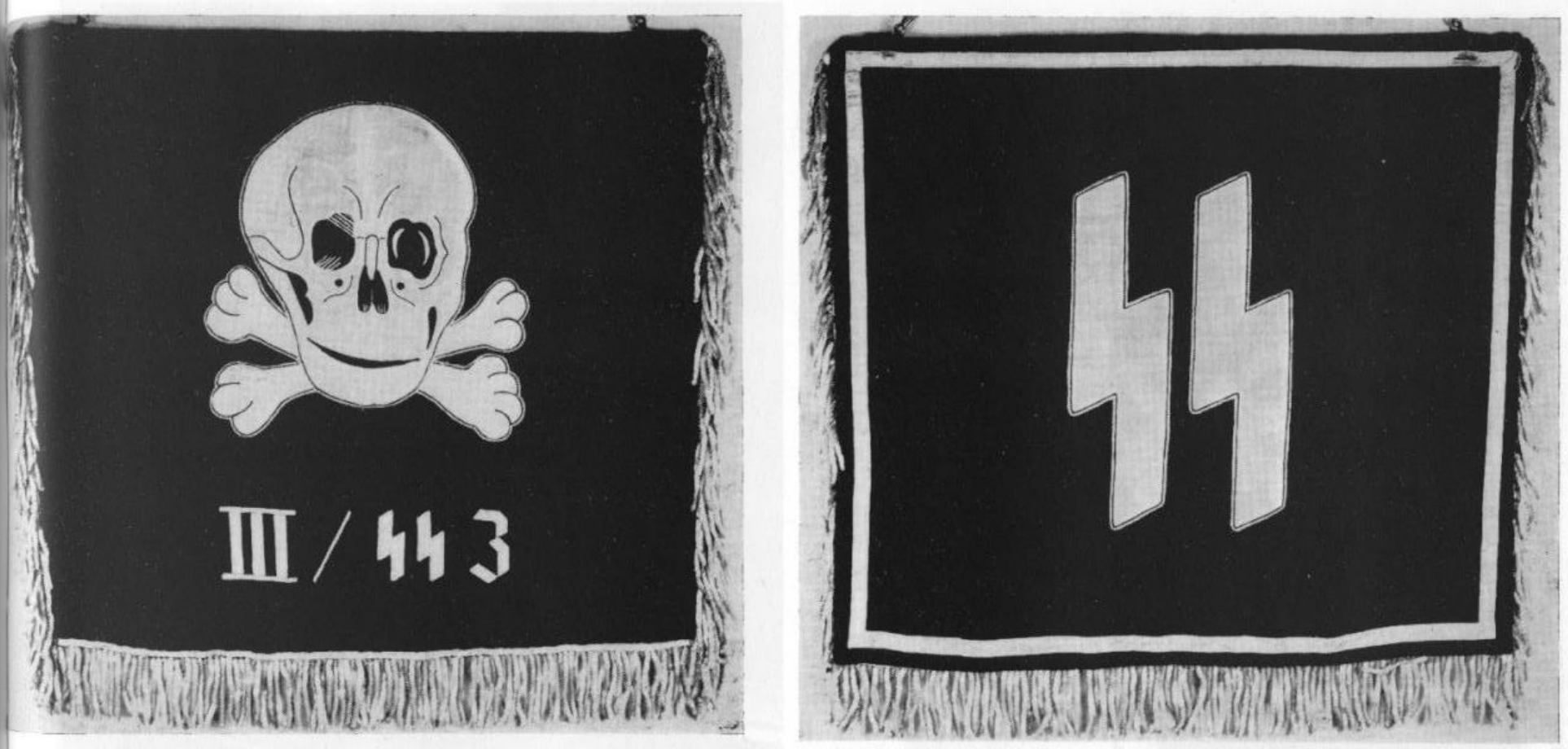
1



2

The "Jingling Johnnie" of the LAH, 1939(?). The moon has the name of the regiment engraved on it. Dodkins Collection.

Trumpeters of the LAH. Most SS trumpet banners were modelled on those of the LAH. Beadle Collection.



Obverse and reverse of a trumpet banner of the III Battalion, Regiment "Der Führer". Private Collection.

FANFARENTÜCHER

Trumpet banners

Trumpet banners of the SS-Verfügungstruppe and SS-Totenkopfverbände were of a standard pattern, which was based on those of the LAH.[2]. The banner was double sided, made of black velvet, and was 49 x 42 cm. On the obverse was a 23 cm high death's head worked in aluminium lamé, with detail and shading machine embroidered in silvered wire and black silk thread.

Underneath the death's head was the regimental or battalion designation in 5 cm high, aluminium wire embroidery. The reverse bore 24 cm high SS runes in aluminium lamé edged in twisted cord. The reverse only was edged in 1 cm wide aluminium braid. The banner had 5 cm long aluminium fringe on three sides, and was attached to the trumpet by two nickel-plated snap hooks.

[1]Reichstagung in Nürnberg 1937, p. 33.

[2]SS-Befehlsblatt, 25.6.35, Ziff 17.

PARADE-PAUKENBEHÄNGE
Banners

The kettledrum banner was made of black velvet, and was edged in 2 cm wide aluminium braid and 5 cm fringe. On three, or all five of its panels, were embroidered regimental or battalion emblems, or the death's head and SS runes in aluminium wire embroidery or aluminium lamé.

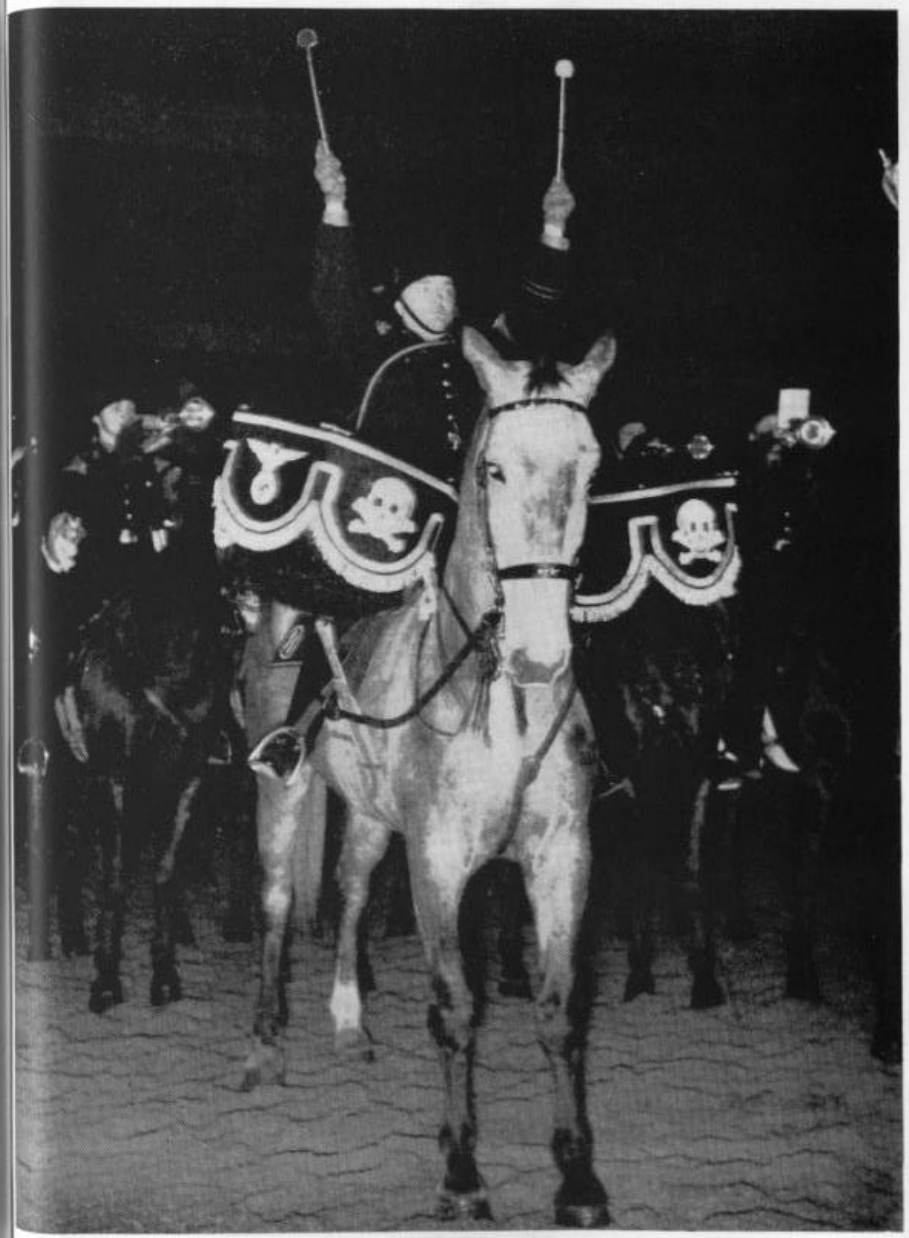
GROSSE TROMMEL
Bass drums

The big drum was painted black, and had black and white zigzag rims (Holzspannriefen). On the front of the drum was painted a white death's head and the unit name in Gothic script. Battalion "N" had the 1933 Nuremberg rally badge in place of the death's head.[1]

GLOCKENSPIEL WIMPEL
Lyra pennons

Small triangular black velvet pennon, edged in 1 cm wide aluminium braid. On the obverse was embroidered the national emblem in aluminium wire. At each of the three points of the triangle was suspended an aluminium wire tassel. The pennon was attached to the reverse of the instrument so that it was visible from the front. See opp. page.

Kettle drummer of the LAH. Kettle drums and fanfare trumpets were only used by non-mounted units for concerts and beating the retreat. Süddeutscher Verlag.



SS-Hauptscharführer Meyer on Nicolaus in January 1936. All mounted musicians, in addition to their own instrument, carried a trumpet slung on their back. The Trumpet Major gave his commands with his trumpet. Südd Verlag.

Bass drum of the Regiment "Germania"

SS-FAHNEN UND STANDARTEN
SS Flags and standards

It was the custom to present and inaugurate flags and standards at the annual Party Day Rally (Reichsparteitag), which was held each September from 1933 to 1938.
The following units are known to have received their flags and standards at Nuremberg.

1933	Leibstandarte Adolf Hitler	1 standard and 3 battalion flags
1934	SS-Standarte "Deutschland"	1 standard and 3 battalion flags
1935	SS-Nachrichtensturmbann*	1 standard
1935	SS-Pioniersturmbann*	1 battalion flag
1936	SS-Standarte "Germania"	1 standard and 3 battalion flags
1937	SS-Sturmbann "N"*	1 battalion flag
1938	SS-Standarte "Der Führer"	1 standard and 3 battalion flags

*Not confirmed.

SS standards and battalion flags were basically the same for all units both in the Allgemeine-SS and SS-Verfügungstruppe. Each regiment had its name on the standard, and a black patch on the top corner (next to the pole) of the battalion flag, on which was machine embroidered the regimental and battalion designation. See opp. page

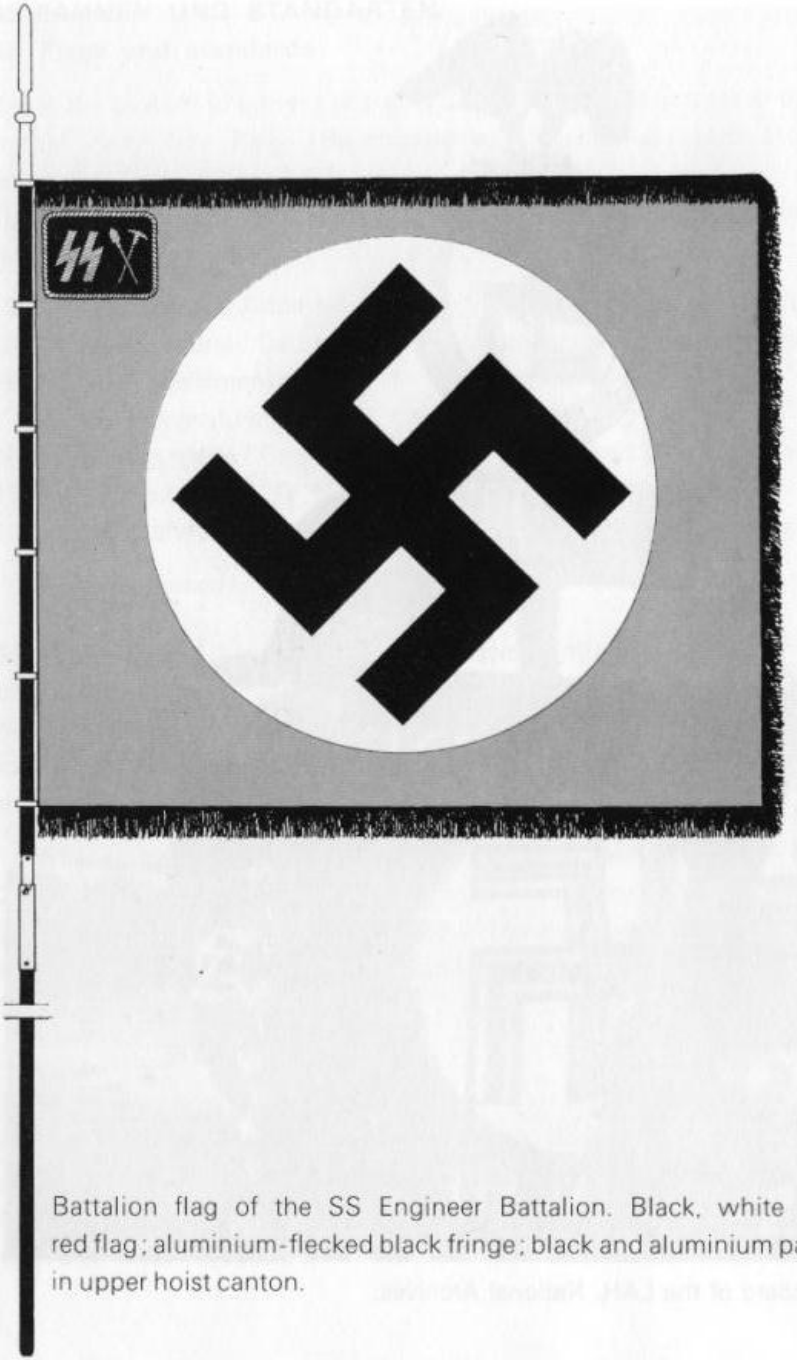
1. SS-Leibstandarte "Adolf Hitler", I, II and III battalions.
2. SS-Standarte "Deutschland", I, II and III battalions.
3. SS-Standarte "Germania", I, II and III battalions.
4. SS-Standarte "Der Führer", I, II and III battalions.
5. SS Battalion "N".

Regimental standard of the SS-Leibstandarte "Adolf Hitler". Gilt eagle and binding of aluminium wreath; red flag with black/aluminium/red fringe, cords and tassels; all other features aluminium, white or black. (See Vol. 1, rear endpaper.)

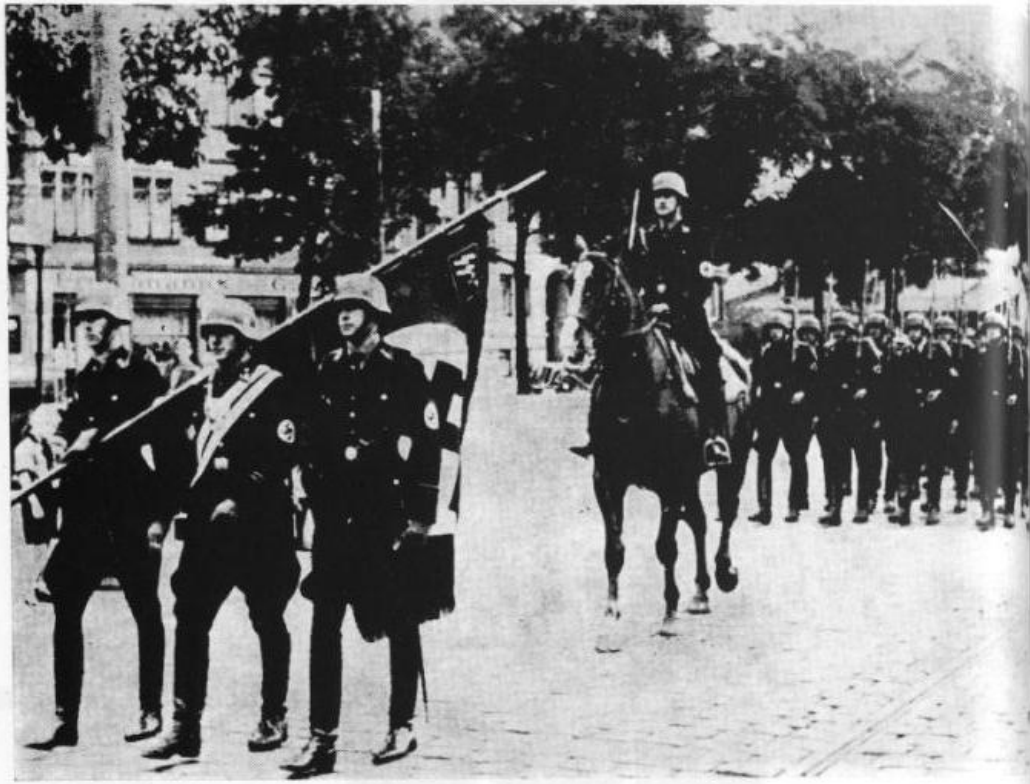
FAHNENSPIEGEL UND STANDARTENBALKEN

Flag patches and standard cross bars

Regimental standard of the LAH. National Archives.



Battalion flag of the SS Engineer Battalion. Black, white and red flag; aluminium-flecked black fringe; black and aluminium patch in upper hoist canton.

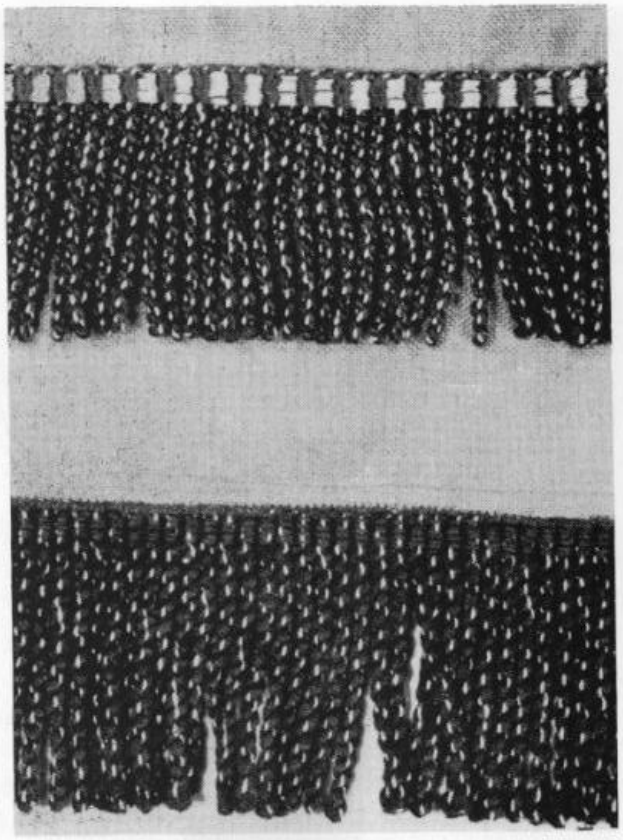


Colour party of the SS-Engineer Battalion, 1937(?). Munin Verlag.

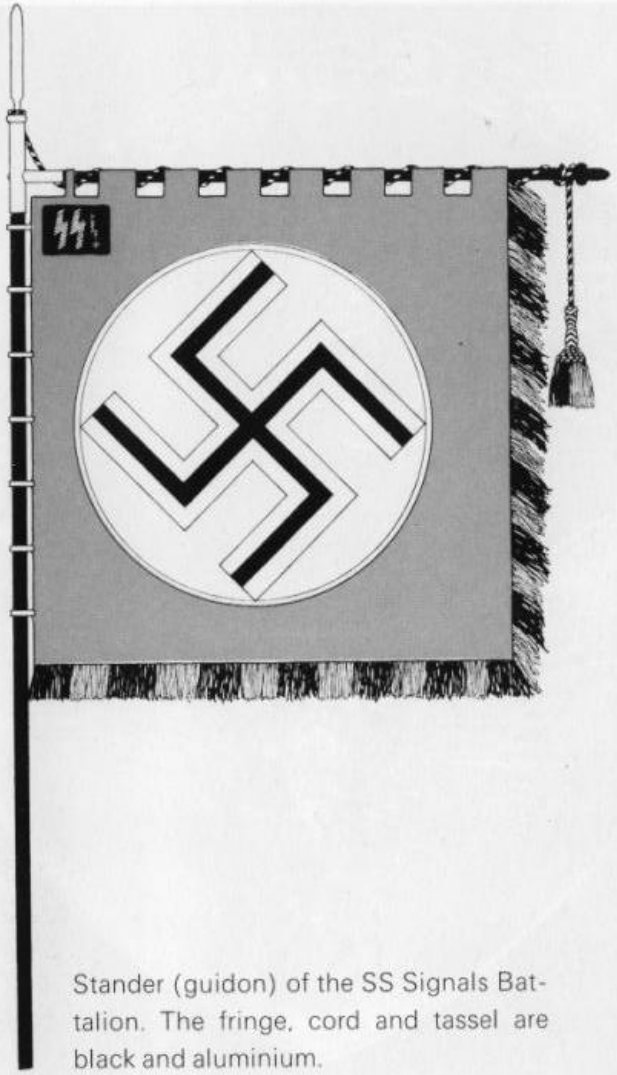
BANDOLIER
Bandolier

In 1935 a new pattern bandolier was issued for carrying both the standard and battalion flag. The bandolier was 11 cm wide and was trimmed with 4 cm wide aluminium braid. The length of the bandolier could be adjusted by means of a black leather strap and nickel-plated buckle on the inside. The bandolier was worn over the left shoulder, on top of the gorget, with the bucket on the right thigh. The standard-bearer and his escort wore white buckskin gauntlets (Stulpenhandschuhe).[1]

[1]SS-Befehlsblatt, Nr 10, 25.10.38, p. 5.



Detail of the fringe from an SS battalion flag. The top is the first, and bottom the second pattern. Mollo Collection.



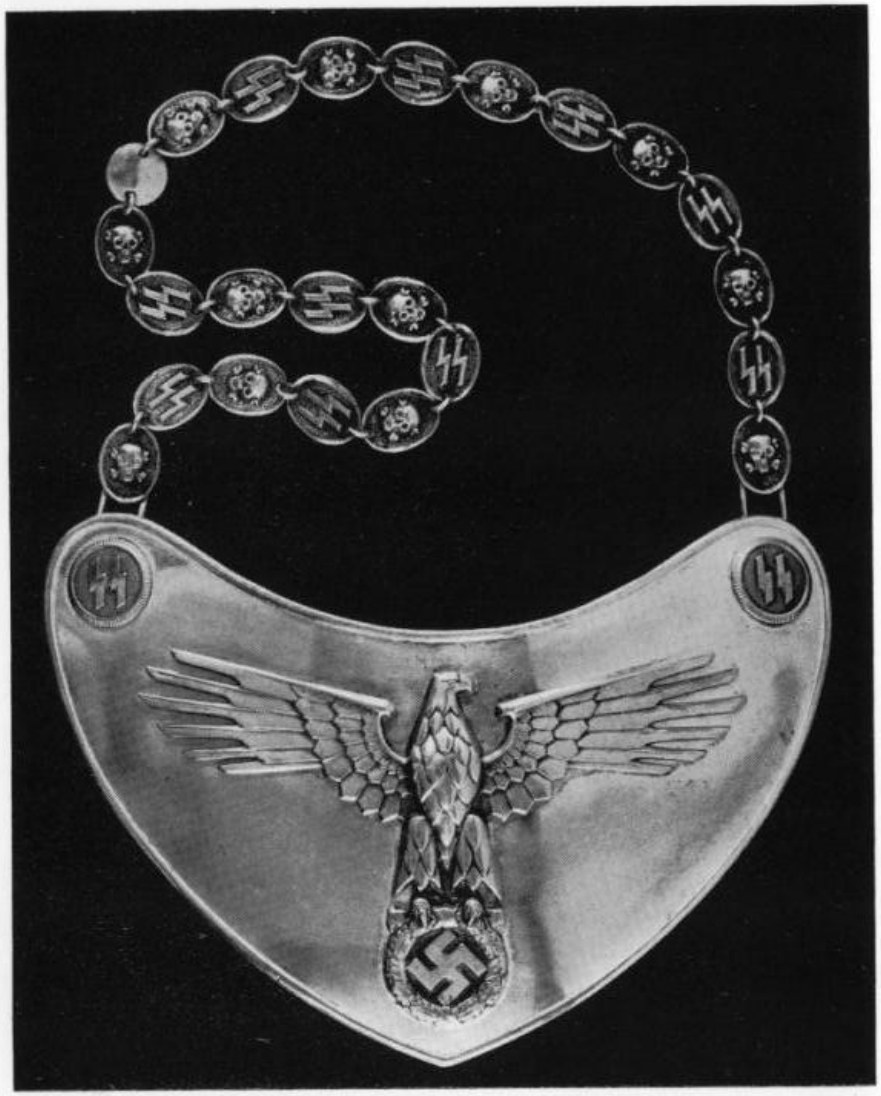
Stander (guidon) of the SS Signals Battalion. The fringe, cord and tassel are black and aluminium.

RINGKRAGEN (BRUSTSCHILD)

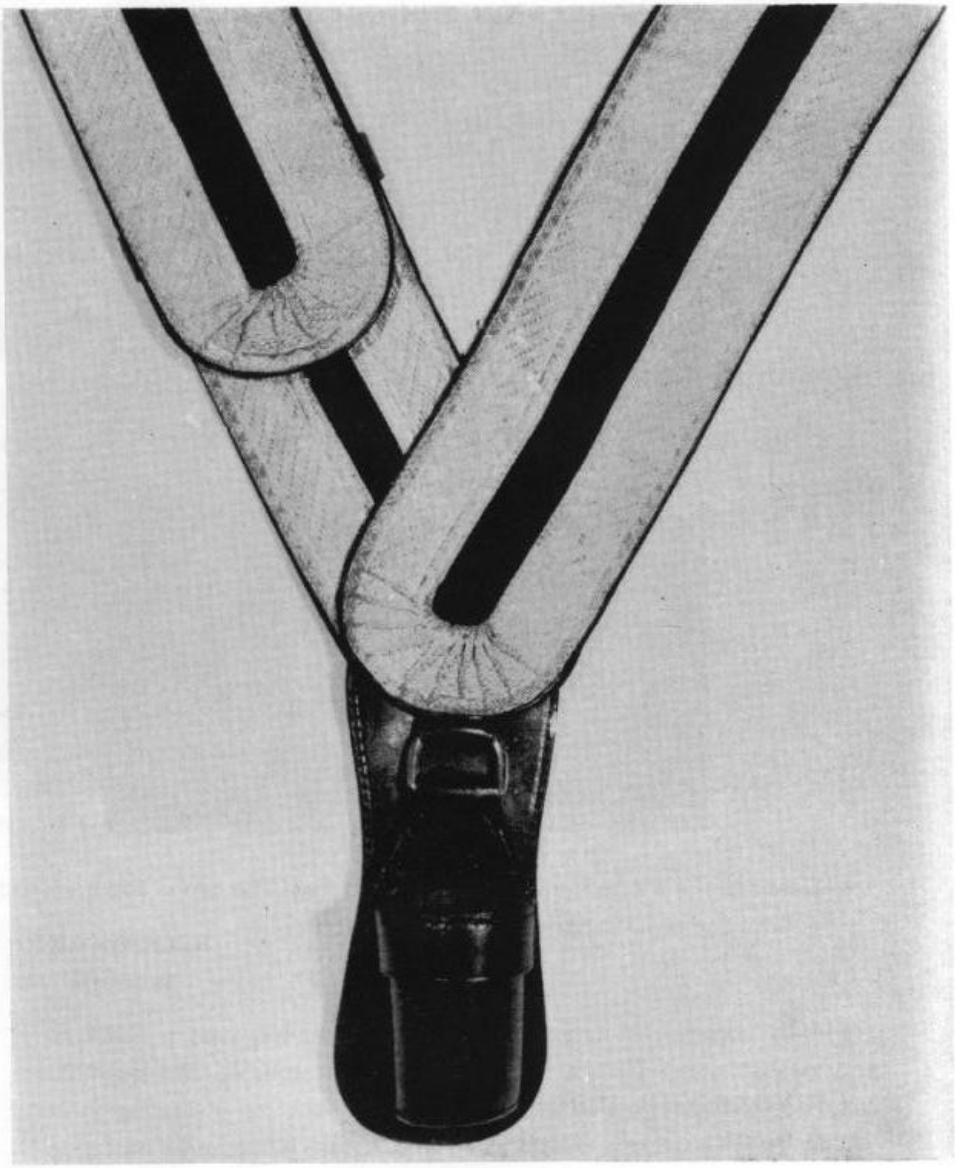
Gorgets

The SA/SS standard-bearers gorget was worn until 1938, when a new model was introduced. It appears that, at one time, the LAH had a special model.

This drawing is based on a photo. found by an English soldier in an SS barracks at Unna, Westphalia, on 6th June, 1945. The original photograph is in the collection of the Imperial War Museum, London.



SS Standard-bearer's gorget, model 1938.



Standard bearer's bandolier, 1935 model. Mollo Collection.

APPENDIX I

ORDER

Re: Equipment and clothing of the SS of the NSDAP

The Reichsführung-SS has concluded an agreement with the Reichszeugmeisterei (RZM) of the NSDAP, according to which SS articles which until recently had been ordered by the SS from the SS Administrative office at 31, Gabelsbergstrasse, Munich, are in future to be ordered directly and exclusively from the RZM, SS Despatch Department, 53 Schwanthalerstrasse, Munich.

As a result of this agreement, all retailers and tailors approved by the RZM are obliged to purchase all articles, no matter what kind, from the RZM, in order to finally ensure the standard of SS clothing recommended by the Reichsführer-SS.

Care is being taken that the RZM will only despatch those articles that have been approved for delivery by the Reichsführung-SS, Dept. IV. The prices have been fixed, by mutual agreement, so that in future no profits will be made from members of the SS.

RZM approved manufacturers, of textile and metal insignia, as well as approved manufacturers of headdress, are not entitled to make any SS articles unless they are required for delivery by the RZM.

Textile dealers are forbidden to stock SS service insignia.

In principle approved wholesalers of the RZM are forbidden to sell SS articles.

Approved manufacturers of leather goods may, if they can prove that they keep open shop, get their requirements of SS leather goods from the RZM. They will be charged the same prices as retailers.

All approved retailers and owners of tailor's shops, as well as other holders of proof of entitlement, are bound to notify the RZM at once if acts are performed which are contrary to this order and the regulations published by the RZM.

Every holder of proof of entitlement, who does not observe all these regulations, may expect to be deprived of entitlement and have stocks of SS articles seized.

The service offices of the SS, as well as members of the SS, are expressly forbidden to obtain requirements from any sources other than the retailer's and tailor's shops approved by the RZM itself, and in the case of leather goods, other than the authorised leather goods manufacturers who have a retail outlet.

Retailers of the RZM are obliged, when selling SS articles, to require presentation of the SS pass, while members of the SS are obliged to present their pass without being asked to do so.

Those firms which have no contractual relationship with the RZM, yet manufacture any kind of SS article or sell or offer them for sale will, in future, by application of the order of the Reich's President, of March 21st, 1933, for prevention of malicious attacks against the Government of the National Rising, be seized and handed over to the Political Police. In addition, SS articles made or kept contrary to the law will be seized without exception.

Munich, 23 March, 1934.

p.p. The Reichsführer-SS.
I.V.:
(Sgd.) Wittje,
SS-Gruppenführer.

The Reich's Treasurer
(Sgd.) Schwarz.

At the suggestion of the Reichsführer-SS, Reich's Chancellor Schwarz has ordered that the hitherto SS Despatch Dept. of the RZM, will in future be called the SS Supply Office.

The establishment of a supply office of its own for the SS was necessary because of the considerably increased supply of SS articles of clothing and equipment, and especially to ensure in future the recommended standard in service insignia, clothing and equipment.

Requirements can be satisfied in a very short time. In future the SS Supply Office will keep SS articles that have hitherto been ordered, or may be ordered in the future.

Design, quality and price will always be fixed by the SS Supply Office

in agreement with the SS Administrative Office, which will guarantee that there will not be any disadvantages as to quality and price for SS offices and personnel.
The head of the SS Supply Office is a member of the Reichsführung-SS, and as a trustee of the Reichsführer-SS is responsible for the execution of service instructions and all orders given to him.
According to the RFSS order dated 27.3.34, a supplies inspector is to be appointed in all SS companies. He will communicate directly with the SS Supply Office in all questions concerning dress regulations and the orders of the SS.
At the end of July, SS dress regulations and clothing orders will be published and amended from time to time.
SS offices are expressly forbidden by the RFSS to procure service insignia or items of clothing and equipment, no matter what kind, by circumventing the SS Supply Office.

APPENDIX II

SS SUPPLY OFFICE

NEW SS SERVICE INSIGNIA

As sufficient attention has not yet been paid to our notice in the 25th edition of the News Sheet, it is repeated below.
The Reichsführung-SS has issued the following order, which we hereby bring to the notice of firms entitled to sell SS equipment and clothing.
We would draw your special attention to the last sentence of the order, according to which stocks in the existing pattern will be supplied by us. Accordingly, retailers and tailors who still have stocks of such insignia purchased from us may continue to sell these. SS service offices or members of the SS are not entitled to refuse insignia of the pattern ordered hitherto. The date by which the whole SS will have to be provided with the new insignia has still to be made known. In principle, insignia ordered up till now will not be exchanged for the latest pattern.
The Reichsführer-SS,
Head of the SS Office 10, No. 08281 K./E.
Munich, 24th October, 1934.

SS SERVICE INSIGNIA

Collar patches

1. Political Readiness Detachments.
   Aluminium embroidery for SS-Bewerber upwards.
   Other SS units.
   Light grey silk embroidery for SS-Bewerber up to and including Stabsscharführer. Aluminium embroidery for SS-Untersturmführer and above.

Armbands

1. Political Readiness Detachments.
   Aluminium embroidery for SS-Bewerber upwards.
   Armbands with white stripes will in future have aluminium.
2. Other SS units.
   Light grey silk embroidery for SS-Bewerber up to and including Stabsscharführer. Aluminium embroidery for SS-Untersturmführer and above. Armbands with white stripes will in future have aluminium.

Armbadges

1 For all SS members aluminium embroidery.

Shoulder cords

1 For all SS units.
SS-Bewerber up to and including Stabsscharführer, black and aluminium.
SS-Untersturmführer and above, aluminium.

Collar cord

For all SS members.
SS-Bewerber up to and including Stabsscharführer, black and aluminium cord. SS-Untersturmführer and above, aluminium cord.
The collar cord is 2 mm wide.

Collar patch cord

For all SS members.

SS-Anwärter up to and including Stabsscharführer, black and aluminium cord.

SS-Untersturmführer and above, aluminium cord. The cord is 1½ mm wide.

SS-Bewerber wear collar patches without cord.

Collar patch braid

For all SS members.

Aluminium and black.

The SS Supply Office still holds large stocks of the old insignia, which must be used up first.

The Reichsführer-SS.
1. V.:
(Sgd.) Wittje, SS-Gruppenführer.

APPENDIX III

439. APPLICATION OF SERVICE COLOUR
(Anlegen der Waffenfarbe)

The Reichsführer-SS has decreed that all officers of the Waffen-SS must equip themselves with shoulder straps with the service colours of their units by the 1st January, 1941, in accordance with his order of 10.5.1940 (see in this connection the order of the Reichsführung-SS, Head Office for Household and Buildings—I/3 1501—of 5.11.40).

The wearing of shoulder straps contrary to regulations, as well as with the incorrect service colours after 31.12.1940, is forbidden.

The foregoing will apply, where appropriate, for the field uniform of non-commissioned officers and men.

With regard to the wearing of white piping on SS service caps, and white piping on long trousers, see order of the Reichsführer of 5.11.40, according to which the last date for wearing non-regulation piping is also fixed at 31.12.1940.

Headquarters of the Waffen-SS IVa.

APPENDIX IV

SS MUSICAL ESTABLISHMENTS

Unit	Formed	MZ	SZ	Regimental march
LAH[1]	Aug. 1933	36		Badenweiler
	1934	54		
	1935	72		
I/"D"	Nov. 1934	36		Parademarsch der
	Later	45		Langen Kerls
II/"D"[2]	1934	40		
I/"G"	Aug. 1934			Alexandermarsch[4]
	1935[3]	12	16	
	Later	40	24	
II/"G"	Sep. 1935	38	24	Helenenmarsch II/173
III/"G"	Apr. 1935			
II/"DF"	1938 } E/SS "DF" 1939[5]	45		Prinz Eugen-Marsch
III/"DF"	1938 }			
SS Pio. Stb.	1934	28		
SS Na. Stb.	1934[6]	28		
SS-Schule Tölz[7]	Oct. 1935		8	

[1]Der Freiwillige, Jan. 1966, p. 19.
[2]Der Freiwillige, Dec. 1966, pp 7 and 8
[3]Der Freiwillige, May 1967, p. 8 with illustration.
[4]Der Freiwillige, May 1967, pp. 7 and 8.
[5]Der Freiwillige, Nov. 1967, p. 9.
[6]Der Freiwillige, Apr. 1966, p. 7 gives late summer of 1935 as date of formation.
[7]Das Schwarze Korps, No. 32, 10.10.35, p. 3.

APPENDIX V Comparative rank table (revised)

British Army	US Army	German Army	Waffen-SS
		(A) Rangklasse des Reichmarschalls:	
—	—	Reichmarschall	Reichsführer-SS
(B) General officers		*(B) Rangklasse der Generale:*	
Field-Marshal	General of the Army	Generalfeldmarschall	—
General	General	Generaloberst	Oberstgruppenführer u. Generaloberst d. Waffen-SS
Lieutenant-General	Lieutenant-General	General (der Infanterie, etc.)	Obergruppenführer u. General d. Waffen-SS
Major-General	Major-General	Generalleutnant	Gruppenführer u. Generalleutnant d. Waffen-SS
Brigadier	Brigadier-General	Generalmajor	Brigadeführer u. Generalmajor d. Waffen-SS
(C) Field officers:		*(C) Rangklasse der Stabsoffizier:*	
—	—	—	Oberführer
Colonel	Colonel	Oberst	Standartenführer
Lieutenant-Colonel	Lieutenant-Colonel	Oberstleutnant	Obersturmbannführer
Major	Major	Major	Sturmbannführer
(D) Company officers:		*(D) Rangklasse der Hauptleute, Rittmeister:*	
Captain	Captain	Hauptmann, Rittmeister	Hauptsturmführer
(E) Subalterns:		*(E) Rangklasse der Leutnante:*	
Lieutenant	Lieutenant	Oberleutnant	Obersturmführer
Second Lieutenant	Second Lieutenant	Leutnant	Untersturmführer
(F) Warrant officers:		*(F) Rangklasse der Festungs.-Hufbeschlagmeister:*	
Warrant Officer 1st Class	Chief Warrant Officer	Festungsoberwerkmeister, Oberhufbeschlaglehrmeister	—
Warrant Officer 2nd Class	Warrant Officer, Junior Grade	Festungswerkmeister, Hufbeschlaglehrmeister	—
(G) Senior non-commissioned officers:		*(G) Rangklasse der Unteroffizier mit Portepee:*	
Colour Sergeant, CQMS, etc.	Master Sergeant, First Sergeant	Stabsfeldwebel, Stabswachtmeister, etc.	Sturmscharführer
—	—	Oberfähnrich, etc.	Standartenoberjunker
Colour Sergeant, CQMS, etc.	Technical Sergeant	Oberfeldwebel, Oberwachtmeister, etc.	Hauptscharführer
Sergeant	Staff Sergeant	Feldwebel, Wachtmeister, etc.	Oberscharführer
(H) Junior non-commissioned officers:		*(H) Rangklasse der Unteroffizier ohne Portepee:*	
Officer Cadet	Officer Candidate	Fähnrich	Standartenjunker
Corporal (Lance-Sergeant)	—	Unterfeldwebel, Unterwachtmeister, etc.	Scharführer
Corporal, Bombardier	Sergeant	Unteroffizier, Oberjäger	Unterscharführer
(I) Men		*(I) Mannschaften:*	
Lance-Corporal,	—	Stabsgefreiter	Rottenführer (Stabsrottenführer)
	Corporal	Obergefreiter	Rottenführer
Lance-Bombardier, etc.	Private 1st Class	Gefreiter	Sturmmann
Private, Trooper,	—	Oberschütze, Oberreiter, etc.	Oberschütze, Oberreiter, etc.
Gunner, etc.	Private	Schütze, Reiter, Jäger, etc.	Mann (Schütze, etc.)

Notes:
In 1939 there was an additional rank of Warrant Officer 3rd Class in the British Army, which existed from 1938 until late 1940. At that time there was no General of the Army serving in the US Army; and the ranks of First and Technical Sergeant were a grade lower than Master Sergeant.

This is a definitive final listing of German Army and SS ranks. In the context of this volume it should be noted that in 1939 the following ranks did not yet exist in the SS: SS-Oberstgruppenführer, and SS-Stabsrottenführer. At that date the two lowest ranks in the SS-Verfügungstruppe were still SS-Staffelanwärter and SS-Staffelmann.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

D'Alquen, Gunter: DIE SS. Geschichte, Aufgabe und Organisation der Schutzstaffel der NSDAP, Junker & Dünnhaupt Verlag, Berlin, 1939.

Buchheim, Hans: Broszat, Martin, Krausnick, Helmut, Jacobsen, Hans-Adolf: ANATOMIE DES SS STAATES, Walter Verlag, Olten & Freiburg im Breisgau, 1965.

THE ANATOMY OF THE SS STATE, translated R. H. Barry, Marian Jackson & Dorothy Long, Collins, London, 1968.

Calic, Edouard: HIMMLER ET SON EMPIRE, Opera Mundi, 1965, & Editions Stock.

DIENSTALTERLISTE der SS. Stand vom 1 Oktober 1934, Buckdruckerei Birkner, vorm. Hermes, Munich.

DIENSTALTERLISTE der SS. Stand vom 1 Juli 1935, Reichsdruckerei, Berlin, 1935.

Eelking, Freiherr von: DIE UNIFORMEN DER BRAUNHEMDEN, Zentralverlag der NSDAP. Frz. Eher Nachf., Munich, 1934.

Görlitz Walter: DIE WAFFEN-SS (Heft 5: DAS DRITTE REICH), Arani-Verlags-GmbH, Berlin-Grünewald, 1960.

Hausser, Paul: SOLDATEN WIE ANDERE AUCH, Munin Verlag, Osnabrück, 1966.

Hausser, Paul: WAFFEN-SS IM EINSATZ, Plesse Verlag K.W. Schütz, Göttingen, 1953.

Hettler, Eberhard: UNIFORMEN DER DEUTSCHEN WEHRMACHT, Uniformen-Markt Verlag Otto Dietrich, Berlin, 1939.

Höhne, Heinz: THE ORDER OF THE DEATH'S HEAD, translated from the German by Richard Barry, Secker & Warburg, London, 1969.

Keilig, Wolf: DAS DEUTSCHE HEER 1939-1945. Gliederung, Einsatz, Stellenbesetzung. 3 vols., Verlag Hans-Henning Podzun, Bad Nauheim.

Krätschmer, Ernst-Günther: DIE RITTERKREUZTRÄGER DER WAFFEN-SS, Plesse-Verlag, Göttingen, 1957.

MITTEILUNGSBLATT DER RZM DER NSDAP, Munich, 1934-1945.

Neusüss-Hunkel, Dr. Ermenhild: DIE SS, Nordeutsche Verlagsanstalt O. Goedel, Hannover and Frankfurt, 1956.

Reichsorganisationsleiter der NSDAP: ORGANISATIONSBUCH DER NSDAP, 5th impression, Zentralverlag der NSDAP, Franz Eher II, Munich, 1938.

REICHSPARTEITAG, Teil 1 (SS-Dv. RPT I), Nur für den Dienstgebrauch, Berlin, 15th May, 1938.

Reitlinger, Gerald: THE SS: Alibi of a Nation. William Heinemann, London, Melbourne, Toronto, 1956.

SCHUTZSTAFFEL DER NSDAP. Kleiderkasse Katalog, Gültig ab 1 November, 1940.

SCHWERT UND SPATEN, Berliner Buch-u. Zeitschriften-Verlag, E. O. Erdmenger & Co., Berlin -1943.

Seraphim, Hans-Günther: SS-VERFÜGUNGSTRUPPE UND WEHRMACHT, Wehrwissenschaftliche Rundschau, No. 12, 1955.

SS-Führungshauptamt: SS-BEFEHLSBLATT, Berlin-Wilmersdorf, 1932-1945.

SS-Führungshauptamt: VERORDNUNGSBLATT DER WAFFEN-SS, Berlin-Wilmersdorf, 1941-1945.

SS-VT IN POLEN 1939-1940( ).

Stein, George H.: THE WAFFEN-SS, HITLER'S ELITE GUARD AT WAR, Oxford University Press, London, 1966.

Steiner, Felix: DIE ARMEE DER GEÄCHTEN, Plesse-Verlag, Göttingen, 1963.

UNIFORMEN-MARKT, Otto Dietrich Verlag, Berlin, 1935-1943.

UNIFORMEN-ZEITSCHRIFT, Schwert und Spaten, Berlin, 1943-1945.

War Office, The: VOCABULARY OF GERMAN MILITARY TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS, Revised to 1942, HMSO, General Staff, London, April, 1943.

Weidinger, Otto: KAMERADEN BIS ZUM ENDE, DER WEG DES SS-PANZERGRENADIER REGIMENTS 4 "DF", 1939-1945, Plesse-Verlag, Göttingen, 1962.

Weidinger, Otto: DIVISION DAS REICH 1934-1939, Munin Verlag Gmbh., Osnabruck, 1967.

Zschäckel, Friedrich: WAFFEN SS IM WESTEN, Zentralverlag der NSDAP, Franz Eher Nachf, Munich, 1941.

ERRATA & ADDENDA (Third Edition)

Page 3 Right column, line 2: for 'the three' read 'both'.
Page 11 Right hand caption: for 'September 1939' read '29 September 1938'.
Page 13 Left column, line 10: the IV Battalion became SS-Regiment z.b.V. (Special Purpose) Ellwangen on 8 November 1938.
Page 18 Strike out lines 29 & 30, right column.
Page 19 Left column, line 28: for 'A-mot.' read 'T-mot.' (partly motorised).
Page 20 The battalion titles should be: I/SS-Sturmbann 'N'; SS-Sturmbann 'N' from 17 September 1936; SS-Kradschützen-Bataillon 'N'.
Left column, line 30: for 'artillery battery' read ' artillery battalion (Abteilung)'.
Page 21 Left column, line 5: for 'IInd Battalion' read '2nd Company'.
Line 6: for 'Bataillon' read 'Kompanie'.
Right column, line 10: for 'Panzerabewehr' read 'Panzerabwehr'.
Page 22 Right column, lines 15–16: unit title should read 'Artillerie-Lehr-Regiment'.
Lines 20–22: for 'battery' read 'battalion'.
Line 28: should read 'three battalions of three batteries each'.
Page 25 Caption: this photograph dates from post-September 1939, not 1938.
Page 26 Left column, line 12: should read 'SS-Führerschule des Wirtschaftsverwaltungsdienstes'.
Left column, Reiter-Sturmbann: should read 'The designation of this unit was changed almost immediately to Reiter-Sturmbann (Aufklärungs-Abteilung)/SS-VT. It was to have been organised as follows: staff, signals platoon, two mounted squadrons, one bicycle company, and a heavy machine-gun platoon.'
Page 29 Far left caption: for 'Kleine' read 'Kleiner'.
Fig. 2 captions: These are unclear. Fig. 2 shows the front of a standard military greatcoat, which was the same for the Army and SS. Fig. 2a shows the SS back (half) belt, which differed from that on Army coats, and this is also illustrated as Fig. 2b. In general, officers' field-grey greatcoats had dark green collars; while those of general officers (SS-Oberführer and above) were worn with the top two buttons undone and the lapels turned back to reveal silver-grey facings.
Page 32 Right column, line 4: for 'Cementfarbe' read 'Zementfarbe'.
Caption: should read 'Members of the 11th Coy. of the Sonderkommando in Jüterbog.'
Page 35 Footnote 4: Verwaltungamtes-SS, Bekleidungs-Vorschrift für die Schutzstaffel der NSDAP (BV-SS). SS-Dienstvorschrift Nr.17, Berlin, Dezember 1934.
Page 36 Left column, line 6: for 'SS-Verfügungstruppen' read 'SS-Verfügungstruppe'
Page 38 Left column, line 5: for 'Krätzen' read 'Krätzchen'.
Page 39 Caption should read: 'A member of SS-Standarte 1 on guard at the memorial to the National Socialists killed in the November 1923 Putsch in the Residenzstrasse, Munich.'
Caption to photograph on p. 38: for 'Krätzen' read 'Krätzchen'.
Page 40 Members of the Leibstandarte 'Beritt' wore the 1918 model steel helmet with ear cut-outs.
Page 41 Right column, line 4: the asterisk indicates clarification of this term which was omitted. 'Infantry boots, half-length' refers to the standard marching boot or Knobelbecher (dice shaker), as opposed to the high marching boot for wear with breeches as worn with both black and earth-grey uniforms.
Page 42 The white shirt could also be worn with guard dress on special occasions as ordered.
Line 18: for 'Kleine' read 'Kleiner'.
Line 44: for 'Ordenschnalle' read 'Ordensschnalle'.
Page 43 Left column, line 12: for 'Kragenspiegeln' read 'Kragenspiegel'.
Page 44 Right column, line 18: The first SS runic collar patch was introduced in 1933.
Page 45 Left column, line 12: for '1939' read '1938'.
Line 18: for 'Namenzüge' read 'Namenzug'.
Page 47 Left column, line 12: for 'SS-Verfügungstruppen' read 'SS-Verfügungstruppe'.
Line 14: There is also photographic evidence that for a short time members of the Leibstandarte-SS wore shoulder cords on both shoulders of the black uniform.
Line 15: for '1937/38' read '1939'.
Line 19: for 'Brüniert' read 'brüniert'.
Right column: 1 & 2 should be designated men (männer); 3–6 should be designated Unterführer ohne Portepee, as they did not wear swords; 7–8 should be designated Unterführer mit Portepee. The appointment SS-Stabsscharführer was identified by a chevron on the lower right sleeve.
The comparative rank table is Appendix V, page 98.
Page 56 Plate 5, fig. 2. The drawing of the shoulder strap is incorrect. In the meantime original examples of two different straps have surfaced. The first, in this author's collection, is the pattern worn in the photograph on p. 34. It is field-grey, with rounded end, large machine-embroidered grey cypher as in the drawing, and twisted grey silk cord piping. The second pattern is dark green, with rounded end, large cypher as in the drawing, but in chain-stitch, and white piping which has a light bluish tinge to it.
Page 67 Line 3: for 'Raute' read 'Rauten'.
Page 69 Line 13: for '1937' read '1936'.
Line 15: strike out 'both walking out and'.
Page 70 Line 15: for 'SS-Verfügungstruppen' read 'SS-Verfügungstruppe'.
Page 74 Line 9: the sword was worn outside the greatcoat by officers and senior non-commissioned officers. See photo on p. 28.
Page 80 Line 19: for 'Kleine' read 'Kleiner'.
The dagger should be deleted from the table since it was not officially worn by the SS-VT and SS-TV. See letter from Theodor Eicke to the

SS-Hauptamt dated 4 May 1939.

Page 83 The original footnotes were omitted in error, and the author has only been able to recover three of them:
1. Die Leibstandarte, p. 42.
2. Ibid., p. 43.
3. SS-Befehlsblatt, Nr.12, 20.12.36, Para 24, p. 14.
A useful reference book is Musik in der Waffen-SS by Fritz Bunge, Munin Verlag, Osnabrück, 1975.
Left column, line 12: for 'Grosse' read 'Grosser'.

Page 84 Right column, 2nd paragraph: The status of the bearer of the 'Jingling Johnnie' was unusual since he was not a musician, and therefore not a member of the band. He was usually selected for his bearing and stature, and often did not even wear the 'swallow's nests' worn by the bearer of the Leibstandarte 'Jingling Johnnie' in the photograph on p. 86.

Page 88 The footnote to the paragraph dealing with bass drums was omitted and the author has been unable to recover it.

Page 90 Line 9: for '1934' read '1935'.
Line 10: for 'standard' read 'Stander' (guidon)'.

Page 94 The model 1938 gorget illustrated does not have an original chain.

Page 95 Right column, line 21: Franz Xavier Schwarz was one of four SS-Oberst-Gruppenführer and Reich Treasurers (Reichsschatzmeister) and not Reich Chancellor.

UNIFORM WITH THIS VOLUME

Uniforms of the SS, Volume 1: Allgemeine-SS, 1923–1945
Uniforms of the SS, Volume 2: Germanische-SS, 1940–1945
Uniforms of the SS, Volume 4: SS-Totenkopfverbände, 1933–1945